

'Hurricane of protest' threat over new rates

Thousands of firms face huge rises

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

More than half a million businesses face rate increases of at least 50 per cent when a uniform commercial rate is introduced in April, it was disclosed yesterday.

Backbench Conservative MPs — who fear the small businesses which fuelled the economic regeneration might go to the wall — will put ministers under intense pressure to soften the impact of the new rate when Parliament resumes next week.

And business leaders said there would be a "hurricane" of protest once the scale of the new rate demands became widely known.

The Government will be anxious that firms do not pass on the increase to customers, adding a further twist to the inflationary spiral, but Mr John Banham, director general of the CBI, said the increased burden could cause a one-point rise in the Retail

Price Index "at just the wrong time".

Conservative MPs are to seek a meeting with Mr David Hunt, the Minister for Local Government, to express their concern about the effects of the switch to the new system — both on businesses and on the party's prospects in the May local elections.

The impact of the uniform rate — introduced in an attempt to stop high-spending councils "milking" local businesses with excessive rates

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demands — became apparent yesterday when the new lists of rateable values were published after the first revaluation of commercial premises since 1973. Every business in England will pay 34.8p in the pound, and in Wales the rate will be 36.8p.

Nearly a million businesses, mostly in London and the South-East, will face increases

— Harrods' rates will rise from £1 million to £8,352,000 — while another 590,000, mainly in the North and the Midlands, will pay less.

Any move to new premises after April will have to pay the new rate immediately, but others will have their bills adjusted gradually over five years. The new rate is expected to yield £10.4 billion a year.

Mr Henry Bedingham, vice-chairman of the Conservative backbench committee on small business, said yesterday that he would ask ministers to look again at the transition arrangements so that the strain on small businesses would be eased.

"Small businesses, particularly those in the service sector who have been the lifeblood of regeneration, are going to be particularly hit very, very hard. The transition arrangements were made before there were high interest rates and there had been a downturn in economic activity. We are talking about small businesses suffering enormously and some places being forced to close down," he said.

Under the new system, 928,000 business and commercial properties face higher bills. Of those, about 240,000 will have their rates more than doubled and another 230,000 will have to pay more than 50 per cent more. About 108,000

will pay roughly the same as at present.

Many of the largest increases will affect shops and offices in the West End of London. Selfridges in Oxford Street will pay £6,264,000, compared with £1,830,000. But rates for Kendals in Manchester will fall from £622,024 to £565,556 and one factory in the North-West will have a reduction from £349,773 to £147,865.

Under the transition arrangements, businesses with a rateable value of more than £10,000 outside London and £15,000 in the capital will pay maximum increases of 20 per cent plus inflation for the next five years. Those with reduced bills will have cuts of 10.5 per cent this year and 13 per cent in the following year.

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Mr Hunt said the new system was fair and would particularly help factories all over the country as they would find their rates falling by an average 31 per cent.

But MPs from the traditional Conservative heartland of southern England were facing angry demands from local businessmen for some form of relief.

Mr James Pawsey, Conservative MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, said: "The figures facing some businesses are appalling. They are staggering. This will have an adverse effect on inflation as many companies will try to pass on the increases by way of price rises and it will hit employment, particularly in the hard-pressed retail sector. One of the biggest overheads for small businesses is wages and I think there will be job losses as a result."

Sir Rhodes Boyson, the MP for Brent North, feared for the future of shops in small villages. He said: "The timing of this is draconian: just before the local government elections. The transitional arrangements mean that people will be paying 20 per cent plus inflation over a period of five years.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Britons in life or death decision

Two British families will today give a Sudanese court their life-or-death decisions on the fate of five Palestinian terrorists.

Under Islamic law, they were given the right to choose whether the Palestinians — who killed family members in a hotel attack — should be executed, ransomed or pardoned.

Quaker aid workers Christopher and Clare Rolfe and their two children, Thomas, aged 3, and Louise, aged one, from Brighton, East Sussex, died in May 1988 when the Acropolis Hotel in Khartoum was bombed.

Sally Rockett, aged 32, a teacher, who worked for the charity World University Services, also died in the attack, along with two Sudanese.

When the court announced its decision last year, both families said because their relatives were Quakers and opposed to violence, they would not ask for the death penalty.

However, it is understood that the terrorists could still be executed if one of the Sudanese families requests it.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that the views of the British families, which were regarded as sub judice, were ready to go before the court but it was not known if the Sudanese families had also submitted views.

Welsh college rethink

The Polytechnic of Wales will remain in local authority control after a U-turn by Mid-Glamorgan County Council yesterday. The polytechnic's future had been in the balance since last summer when two officials resigned over allegations of financial mismanagement. No charges were brought and the county abandoned plans for an independent inquiry, but it decided to hand over its entire administration to the Welsh Office. Yesterday, however, the county decided against pulling out and agreed to establish a new governing body to run the college from April.

Arts centre inquiry

An inquiry team yesterday began its investigation into the running of the Institute of Contemporary Arts in the wake of a dispute between its director, Mr Bill McAlister, its director, and his staff. The four-man inquiry team is headed by Mr Brian Wenham, chairman of the ICA advisory committee and former managing director of BBC Radio, who said: "There has clearly been a dispute but we are not going to operate as a kind of Arca. We will be talking to as many layers of people in the ICA as is sensible and will report on how we think the place will be run in the 1990s."

£175,000 bright ideas

British Rail has paid a total of £175,000 to 5,000 staff who made suggestions to save money and improve efficiency (Robin Young writes). Mr Melvyn Dixon, a maintenance supervisor, is thought to have earned £3,800 with a scheme to synchronize replacing brake parts with general maintenance work, and the widow of Mr Willie Marshall, a former senior technical officer, received two awards of £400 for a design change he proposed to make lavatory doors more vandal-proof.

Athlete case remand

A man accused of indecently assaulting Miss Veronique Marot, the British women's marathon record holder, at the start of a race was yesterday remanded in custody for a week. Ted Adcock, aged 58, a joiner from Bedlington, Northumberland, is alleged to have fondled her on the breast as she warmed up for a road race between Morpeth and Newcastle upon Tyne on New Year's Day. Magistrates at Bedlington granted a prosecution request for a remand in custody.

Toxic drums alert

Plastic drums washed up on beaches in south-east Cornwall could contain dangerous chemicals, the fire brigade has warned (Libby Jukes writes). Almost 1,000 drums were recovered yesterday from beaches on a two-mile stretch of coast between Portwrinkle and Downend. Although many were found to contain vegetable oil, Cornwall County Fire Brigade fears that some are contaminated. Coastguards are trying to discover the source of the drums.

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Little sign of peace in Tory European battle

By Nigel Williamson
Political Staff

There was little sign of a healing of Conservative divisions over Europe yesterday as a senior Tory Euro-MP publicly attacked the Government's stance at the recent Strasbourg summit as "negative".

Mr Peter Price, the MEP for London South-East, was speaking on BBC Radio Four after it emerged that Mrs Margaret Thatcher was to meet all 32 Conservative MEPs at Downing Street later this month in an effort to close the gulf which has

opened up between them. Mr Price said: "The most important thing is to try to resolve the uncertainty about Government policy on Europe, and Mrs Thatcher's own view of it, which has been in some doubt over the past 18 months as a result of speeches she has made."

"The policy, as demonstrated very recently at the Strasbourg summit, has been a negative one."

Mr Price called on the Prime Minister to show more enthusiasm for integrationist measures and said that he was speaking for the Tory

group in Europe, who all supported a common European currency.

His charges were swiftly rejected by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative party chairman, clearly keen to play down the differences: "The gap can be bridged," he said.

Mr Baker welcomed moves to establish a better working relationship but warned that it was important for MEPs to understand the Government's position.

"The enthusiasm for the single market stems from Margaret Thatcher's initiatives in 1983 and

1984. The policy of the Government is very clear on Europe. There is a strong and enthusiastic commitment to the single market. As regards the European monetary system, we have made clear that it is not whether, but when, we join."

However, the Government had reservations about moves towards federalism and implied that it was the Conservative Group in Strasbourg, and not the Government, which was out of step: "There is no majority for a federal Europe in the Conservative Party, in the House of

Commons or in the country."

The Tory group is due to meet Mr Baker next week. He is also planning two further visits to Strasbourg in the coming weeks.

Tory MEPs did detect a change in tone in the Prime Minister's approach at the Strasbourg summit, but are concerned about the difference between action and words. Mr Price welcomed the more conciliatory tone, but pointed out that the substance was that Britain voted in a minority of 11 to one on the two main issues under discussion.

Council puts alternative ambulances on the road

By Craig Seton

The first alternative ambulance service to be established by a council during the 16-week pay dispute began operating yesterday from a municipal depot in Sandwell, West Midlands.

The Labour-controlled Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, which covers a population of 295,000 in West Bromwich and Smethwick, is paying for six reconditioned, former NHS ambulances which are manned by volunteer professional ambulance men and women.

Yesterday the first two vehicles, hired from a northern firm which specializes in refurbishing ambulances, were "launched" at the council's maintenance depot, where a prefabricated building is to be used 24 hours a day as a temporary control centre for "Sandwell Ambulance Line". The telephone number (021-569-6666) is to be advertised for the five ambulance stations in Sandwell, said yesterday that during each eight-hour shift, at least 12 ambulance officers would be available for unpaid, voluntary duty.

Mr Ron Davis, leader of Sandwell council, said: "Our number one priority is to make sure that services are available to the people of Sandwell. It is an on-going thing and we do not yet know what the full financial implications will be."

• Ambulance unions are preparing for a crucial meeting at TUC headquarters in London to decide how to step up their campaign for an improved pay offer (Mark Souster writes).

Officials want to increase political pressure on the Government through sympathetic Conservative backbenchers which they believe will ultimately force concessions.

To that end two letters were made public yesterday, one from Mrs Thatcher when she was opposition leader, and the second from Mr David

Trippier, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, both of which indicated support for ambulances. They hope these will embarrass the Government back to negotiations.

Sandwell's decision means that patients in the borough could receive transport from the alternative service, regular ambulances manned by staff who have returned to work.

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Testimony to new year terror

PAUL FAITH



A Royal Ulster Constabulary man surveying the wreckage of the car booby-trapped by the IRA that exploded yesterday morning in the Sydenham area of East Belfast, killing Mr Harold Dickey, aged 37, a taxi driver, and injuring his daughter

Chess tournament**Russian scalp puts Scot in control**

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Colin McNab, the international chess master, added a further scalp to his already impressive list of successes in the sixth round of the challengers section of the Foreign and Colonial chess tournament last night.

McNab utterly demolished Alex Wojtkiewicz, the former Soviet international master, in 40 moves. Playing fiercely and confidently with the white pieces, he sacrificed material to crash through with a horde of pawns.

In a desperate time scramble, Wojtkiewicz lost his nerve, committed several errors and proceeded to lose all of his pieces under the heavy attack.

McNab, of Dundee, has the outstanding score of five-and-a-half points from six games and has consolidated his lead ahead of a host of masters and Grand-

masters from the United States and western Europe.

Joseph Gallagher, the young Wimbleton player, defeated James Plaskett, the Bedford grandmaster, to take sole second place with five points, well on the road to achieving his second norm for a grandmaster title.

Sharing third place on four-and-a-half points are Patrick Wolff, of the US, Jan Sorensen, of Denmark, Mark Hebden and Tony Kosten, of England, and Milon Sher, of the Soviet Union.

In a surprise result, Robin Moss, the Hastings amateur, drew his game with Ivan Farago, the Hungarian grandmaster and former Hungarian champion.

In the grandmaster section of the tournament, being played at the Cinque Ports Hotel, Hastings, East Sussex, all

the games yesterday ended in draws after stern struggles.

Murray Chandler of England drew with Boris Gulko of US after a Roy Lopez opening. Michael Adams, aged 18, the British champion and youngest chess grandmaster, held Artur Yusupov, the Soviet world championship semi-finalist, also in a Roy Lopez opening.

Predrag Nikolic, of Yugoslavia, drew with Sergei Dolmatov, of the Soviet Union, in a Dutch defence while Jonathan Speelman drew with Kevin Spraggert, the dual Commonwealth champion, in a king's Indian defence.

Full scores after five rounds of the Grandmaster section are: Nikolic, 3½; Gulko and Dolmatov, 3; Spraggert and Adams, 2½; Yusupov and Speelman, 2; Chandler, 1½.

New calls for random tests

Continued from page 1

committee, accepted the figures would be seen by some as a sign that police did not need greater powers but he claimed this reaction was foolish.

He said: "There is no doubt we are having a big impact on drink-driving but it currently takes a lot of police resources to enforce the law. Unfettered discretion to administer tests would be a much better deterrent."

Mr David Marshall, Labour MP for Glasgow Shettleston and chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Transport, said penalties for drink-driving should be increased to include life bans on driving and longer jail terms.

"Twelve months or 18 months for a drink-driver who kills someone is ridiculous. There is not much difference between someone who goes out in a car and kills a person having drunk too much and the person who kills deliberately with a shotgun," he said.

The Home Office, which early last year began a review of whether random breath testing should be introduced, said the issue remained under "active review".

BREATH TESTS FORCE BY FORCE

	Total tests 1988	Positive tests 1988	Total tests 1989	Positive tests 1989
Avon and Somerset	499	718	113	99
Bedfordshire	341	381	45	52
Cambs (Dec 5-Jan 2)	4,281	2,750	102	153
Cheshire	415	833	93	124
City of London	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Clwyd	511	252	51	55
Cumbria	414	450	45	46
Devon and Cornwall	1,041	1,241	78	91
Dorset	1,284	2,158	114	163
Durham	478	384	48	73
Essex	172	604	73	116
Gwynedd-Powys	139	551	45	52
Hampshire	1,122	1,608	80	143
Herefordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gloucestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gwent	1,107	1,117	44	65
Hants	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Herts	544	699	84	121
Humberside (from 22.12.89)	785	930	83	107
Isle of Wight	541	1,268	150	161
Lancs	1,293	1,711	183	158
Leics (Dec 4-Jan 2)	631	1,138	49	75
Merseyside	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Metropolitan	10,937	15,248	960	962
Norfolk	n/a	7,365	177	177
Notts	n/a	1,055	85	85
Nth Wales	n/a	1,797	115	115
Nth Yorks	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northumbria	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sh. Wales	388	796	79	125
Staffs</td				

MP 'smashed up his ex-lover's flat and stole her underwear'

By David Sapsted

The Labour MP, Ron Brown, smashed windows, mirrors and glasses in his former lover's flat after she rejected his appeal to leave her new boyfriend and start afresh with him, Lewes Crown Court was told yesterday.

He was later stopped by police at a railway station and found to have two pairs of the woman's knickers and some of her jewellery in his raincoat, Mr Richard Camden Pratt said for the prosecution.

Mr Brown, the 49-year-old MP for Edinburgh, Leith, denies causing nearly £300 criminal damage to Mrs Noma Longden's flat in Charles Road, St Leonards.

He also denies stealing the underwear, a brooch, a watch, a picture frame and earrings. His wife, May, sat in the public gallery yesterday as Mrs Longden, aged 39, described their three-year relationship with the MP. The couple had lived together in Mr Brown's flat in Brighton during the break. At weekends, Mr Brown commuted to his wife in Edinburgh and Mrs Longden went home to St Leonards. The arrangement continued until they split up last March.

Mrs Longden said: 'Mr Brown had called at her flat

"Love" was "rather pathetically" found scrawled on it.

When Mr Brown was arrested at the station, he was carrying a picture of Mrs Longden as a baby in his coat, Mr Pratt said. At Hastings police station, the underwear and jewellery were found in his pockets.

Mr Pratt said the MP told the police that Mr Redmond had "gone for him". According to the MP's account, more than half a dozen window panes, mirrors and pictures in the bedroom, kitchen and living room had been smashed as he ducked to avoid bottles and glasses thrown at him.

Under cross-examination by Mr Edward Rees, for the defence, Mrs Longden agreed that the affair had been "fizzling out" after details of their relationship had become public knowledge.

She also agreed that, after the break-up of their affair, Mr Brown had entertained her and Mr Redmond amicably in the Strangers' Bar at the Commons and had bought them opera tickets.

Mr Rees suggested that Mrs Longden had some politically-sensitive tapes and that when Mr Brown had called last April it was to try to get them back. "You were using them as a bargaining counter for some continuing financial support," Mr Rees suggested.

Mrs Longden denied any knowledge of any tapes, and laughed at a suggestion that she had wrapped them in her knickers and put them in Mr Brown's pockets.

But she agreed that Mr Brown had paid some of her bills during their affair and that since they had split up, she relied on social security and her parents for income. She denied suggesting to Mr Brown that she could sell her story of their relationship to the popular press.

The case continues today.

Mr Ron Brown: "Love" scrawled on mirror. Mrs Noma Longden: Three-year affair.

Man jailed after dog injured couple on order of 'kill'

By Mark Sowster

The owner of an American pit bull terrier who commanded the dog to attack two people after a dispute at a party was jailed for six months yesterday.

Kenneth Aymer, aged 22, ordered the vicious pit bull, which had taken part in numerous illegal dog fights, to "kill, kill, kill".

Southwark Crown Court was told that the dog, which weighed six stone, caused horrific flesh wounds to Miss Mary Hypocrate and Mr Kene Marcell, her boy friend.

The dog, named Apollo, had to be beaten off with a baseball bat before it would release its grip. Miss Hypocrate was in hospital for eight days with a badly ripped calf muscle.

Judge Butler, QC, said the

jury had based its conviction on the finding that the dog was being used as a weapon".

In passing sentence, the judge told Aymer: "This was an act of violence and I have to look at it as if the defendant had caused the injuries with an instrument. He caused the dog to attack the victims and even used the word kill. That is very significant."

"When I look at the injuries sustained, I have to consider that it really is a very serious matter. This was a serious act of violence and in my judgement an immediate custodial

sentence has to be passed," Judge Butler said.

Aymer, of Shadwell Street, Poplar, east London, was found guilty of one charge of causing grievous bodily harm and acquitted of a second because of lack of evidence.

The incident occurred on December 28, 1988, when Aymer went to the party in Teviot Street, Poplar, after a telephone call from his sister who said she and her brother had been attacked. Aymer and a youth worker for the Inner London Education Authority took the dog and a baseball bat for protection in anticipation of trouble, Mr John Haines, prosecuting, said.

The dog first sprang at Miss Hypocrate, aged 33, locking its jaws onto her leg. She told the court: "My leg went numb. I screamed in agony. It started to rip my flesh. There was flesh on the floor." Her calf muscle was torn apart and needed numerous stitches.

The dog next turned on Mr Marcell, aged 32, as Aymer gave the command to "kill".

At first, Mr Marcell beat off the dog with the baseball bat.

Aymer had dropped and chased after him. But Aymer suddenly stopped, freed Apollo from its lead again and ordered it to attack.

The dog, with blood dripping from its mouth, sank its teeth deep into Mr Marcell's thigh, ripping apart the main muscle and exposing fat.

Rescuers beat it off with the bat and it was later destroyed.

Miss Hypocrate condemned the sentence as inadequate:

"He's going to be free when I'm still in pain." Mr Marcell said: "This is ridiculous. What

we need is a sentence to show people they can't go round using dogs as weapons. These things are lethal."

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Airlines hoping to double 1989 total of 1.1bn passengers

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The number of passengers who travelled by air last year was 1.1 billion — almost 50 per cent higher than in 1980 — and the number is expected to double in the next decade.

Figures produced by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) yesterday show that after virtually no growth in 1980 and 1981, the number of people who travelled on scheduled services grew throughout the decade, reaching a peak increase of 7 per cent in 1986 and 1987.

At the beginning of the decade oil prices had rocketed, sending fuel costs soaring and the world's economy — and the number of people travelling — plummeting.

Sir Adam Thomson, chairman of British Caledonian Airways, said then: "Recession is when you have to tighten your belts. Depression is when you have no belt left to tighten. And when your trousers are around your ankles you are in the airline business."

In Britain, the state-owned British Airways was plunging further and further into debt, and in 1981 the airline recorded a loss of £454 million.

The Americans, who decided that if airlines were free to fend for themselves in a deregulated environment prices would tumble and competition would increase were proved spectacularly wrong. In practice, the smaller airlines were gradually swallowed up by their larger and

richer rivals until the handful of giant airlines was able to dictate prices and timetables at will.

The European airlines, co-ordinated by rigid protectionism and IATA's price-fixing cartel, were suddenly confronted with American expansion in their heartland.

Britain, which had privatized British Airways, led the way in putting pressure on Europe to relax its strict controls over airlines, the routes they could fly, the prices they could charge and the number of flights they could operate.

Many other nations, horrified by what had happened in

Multi-national giants will control the main routes

the US, resisted strongly, however, arguing that their national carriers would go into terminal decline unless strict regulations were in force to protect them from the more rapacious competitors. They have proved to be a brake on the headlong rush to American-style deregulation.

Now oil prices are stable, costs are under control, and the world economy is still growing strongly.

From overall losses of £6 billion in 1981, the world's airlines are making combined profits of more than £2 billion a year. The future has never looked rosier for the industry. More aircraft are on order

than manufacturers can cope with. Engines are more fuel efficient, quieter and more powerful than was dreamed of 10 years ago.

The boom in demand, however, has not been matched by an increase in capacity, either in the air or on the ground, leading to fears that when demand outstrips supply, market forces will lead to higher prices.

Airlines are worried that the moves towards European liberalization will bring an even greater increase in demand for air travel that they will not be able to meet, simply because there are no more slots available at airports and the air traffic control system could not cope if there were.

By 1999 there will almost certainly be fewer airlines.

"Globalization" is the key word, meaning that multi-nationally owned carriers will be able to provide a seamless round-the-world system operating out of main hub airports. There will, however, be room for some smaller carriers.

It will be more expensive to fly from East Midlands airport to Glasgow than from Heathrow to Glasgow from next month under fare increases proposed by British Midland Airways.

The East Midlands-based airline, which has traditionally led the way in low-cost, high-quality services on domestic air routes, has been given approval to raise 32 fares an average of 7 per cent.

Reform of tax and benefits

Democrats call for nursery vouchers

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Workers with children under school age would be provided with child-care vouchers by their employers as part of proposals by the Liberal Democrats for extensive changes to the taxation and benefits system.

The treatment, for taxation purposes, of workplace nurseries as a perk would be ended and employees, including single parents, would use the vouchers to pay for child care in nurseries anywhere.

A flexible retirement age would let people choose when to retire between the ages of 60 and 70.

Under changes proposed by Mr Paddy Ashdown's party, everyone aged between 16 and 65 would receive £10-a-week citizen's income, irrespective of sex, marital status, income or employment. A low-income benefit would replace income support, family credit and unemployment benefit.

The elderly would receive pensions tax free. The creation of a registered savings account would allow all types of savings to get equal amounts of tax relief.

A broad income tax would be introduced as a single tax on spending capacity, replacing income tax, national insurance contributions, capital gains tax and inheritance tax.

Lady Seear, who chaired the working group that drew up the proposals, said that

they were the most radical for reform of taxation and social security.

She said: "We propose a system which is much less complicated, yet a system that is also much fairer. It is neither a proposal for targeting all benefits nor a proposal for universalizing benefits."

With increases in the number of working women and in the number of elderly, the proposals on child care and retirement outlined in a document, *Common Benefit*, are clearly aimed at both sectors of the electorate.

Lady Seear said the proposals would redistribute wealth within families, mainly towards women.

The Liberal Democrats propose an increase in the basic state pension from £48 for a single person aged over 65, a £1-a-week rise in child benefit, which would be linked to inflation, and abolition of the lower rate of income support for those aged under 25.

The party would also end the obligation on everybody to pay 20 per cent of the community charge. All income above the first £20 a week, and apart from the citizen's payment, would be liable to tax.

There would be an additional tax rate of 50 per cent, starting at about £50,000 a year, and a rate of 25 per cent for pensioners with incomes of about £17,000 a year.

Advise Bureaux is not good enough.

Probation Service surveys show that offenders suffer disproportionately from unemployment.

The survey is also expected to show that many employers covered by the exemption clauses of the Act interpret this to mean that they do not have to offer offenders work, when, in fact, they have the right only to insist that spent convictions are disclosed.

Other research by the trust indicates that more than 98 per cent of offenders are ignorant of the Act.

"Taken together, it is not surprising that offenders, particularly those just out of prison, suffer job discrimination," Mr Andrew McCall, the trust's campaigner, said. "We think the Government should launch a major drive to raise awareness of the Act. Just leaving leaflets in Citizens'

Advise Bureaux is not good enough."

Probation Service surveys show that offenders suffer disproportionately from unemployment.

In Greater Manchester, for example, employment rates among the service's clients are, on average, five times higher than for the general population, while in some parts of Avon and Somerset they can be more than 10 times higher.

The trust and the National Council for Civil Liberties believe that there is a strong case for the Act, at present limited to offenders sentenced to any punishment up to 30 months' imprisonment, to be extended.

However, with ministers unwilling to take such a radical step, they hope to press the Government into increasing the effectiveness of the present legislation. Under the Act, someone

disclosing a person's spent conviction is, with certain exceptions, liable to criminal prosecution, though in the 15 years since the offence was created not one case has come to court.

"This is plainly absurd, as we know unauthorized disclosure occurs regularly, but it is very difficult to prove, particularly as some victims do not even realize they are being wronged," Mr McCall said.

The Act says that spent convictions

may be taken into account where an offender is seeking employment in a range of professions, including medicine, nursing and the law, or wants to become a policeman, teacher or join the Armed Services.

Employers in these fields may use

an undisclosed spent conviction as

legitimate grounds for refusing

employment or even for dismissal.

Carrington home theft charges

A car dealer has been charged with stealing property worth £250 at Lord Carrington's home at Chelsea, west London, in the early hours of New Year's Eve.

Mr Gary Robertson, aged 31, of Islington, north London, was remanded on £10,000 bail at Highbury Road Magistrates' Court, Westminster, yesterday.

He is charged with stealing two sets of cufflinks, three keys, foreign currency and jewellery. Lord Carrington was not at home at the time.

Marriage over

Sir Edward du Cann, aged 65, chairman of Lougho, and his wife, Sallie, aged 50, were divorced yesterday after 27 years of marriage.

Patient dies

Melanie Gold, aged 16, of Yarncombe, Devon, died at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, on New Year's Eve, a year after undergoing a heart and lung transplant.

Reptiles stolen

Police were hunting thieves yesterday who escaped with a haul of 34 reptiles worth £1,200, including a 6ft boa constrictor, in a raid on a pet shop at Mersham, Surrey.

Pyjama escape

A pyjama-clad Egyptian, who hours earlier was refused entry into Britain, has vanished from Buckland Hospital, Dover, where he was sent after convincing immigration officials he was ill.

Employers accused of job bias against offenders

By Quentin Cowdry
Home Affairs Correspondent

Most employers are prejudiced against hiring offenders, according to early results of a national survey of employers by the Apex Trust, a charity which promotes job opportunities for offenders.

The trust said yesterday that the survey would show that most employers were ignorant of the legislation, which gives some offenders the right not to disclose spent convictions when applying for jobs, joining organizations or taking out insurance.

It said that the few employers who had some understanding of the law had gleaned information by accident rather than from official sources and it urged the Government to launch a

campaign to publicize the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, which is designed to protect from discrimination people with spent convictions.

The survey is also expected to show that many employers covered by the exemption clauses of the Act interpret this to mean that they do not have to offer offenders work, when, in fact, they have the right only to insist that spent convictions are disclosed.

Other research by the trust indicates that more than 98 per cent of offenders are ignorant of the Act.

"Taken together, it is not surprising that offenders, particularly those just out of prison, suffer job discrimination," Mr Andrew McCall, the trust's campaigner, said. "We think the Government should launch a major drive to raise awareness of the Act. Just leaving leaflets in Citizens'

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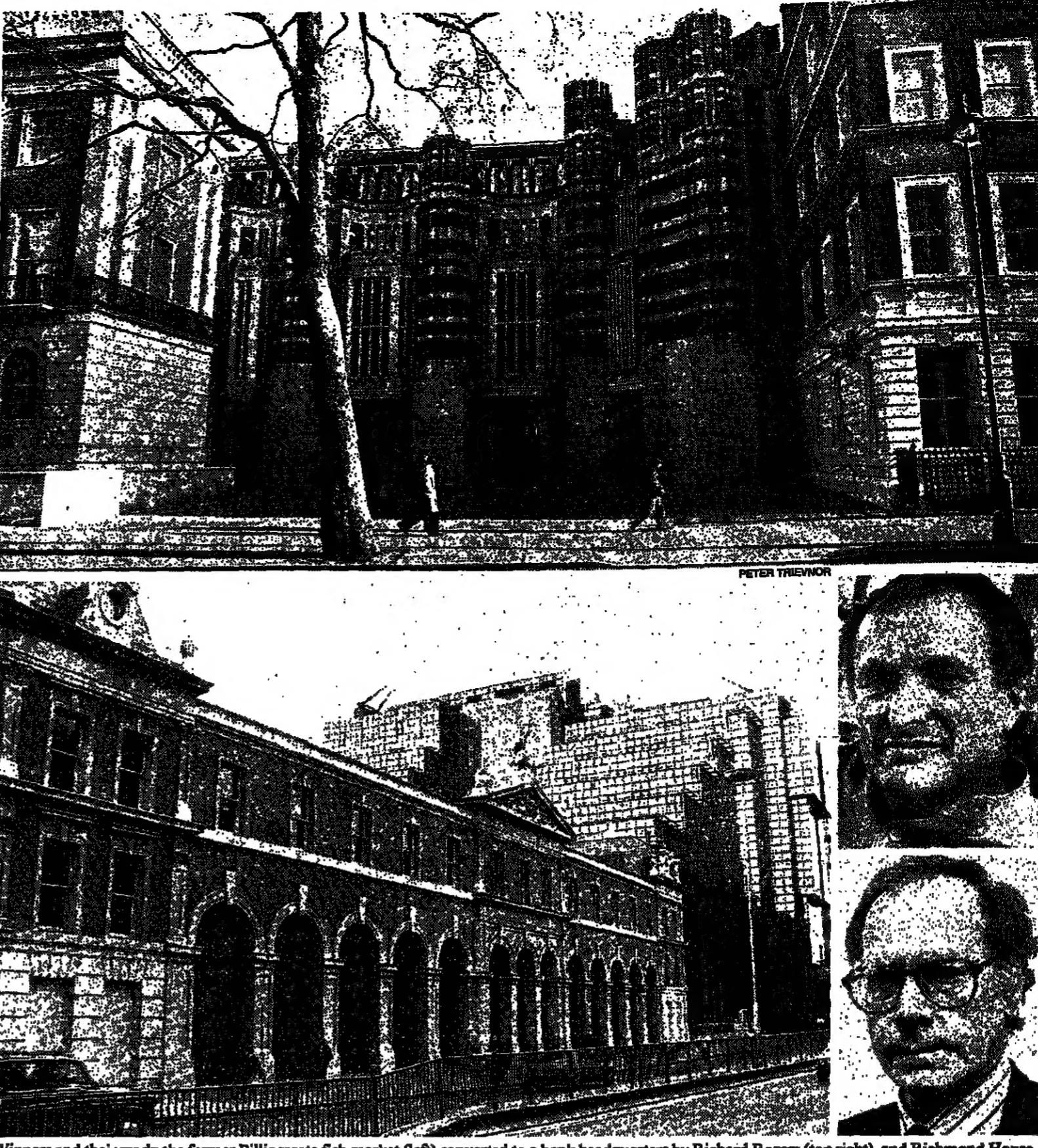
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National awards for modernist architects

GRAHAM WOOD



Winners and their work: the former Billingsgate fish market (left) converted to a bank headquarters by Richard Rogers (top right), and Richmond House, new headquarters for the Department of Health at Whitehall, by William Whitfield. They are among 16 national winners announced by the RIBA today.

By Charles Knevitt and Robin Young

Two buildings by controversial modernist architectural practices have been "called in" to receive national awards announced today by the Royal Institute of British Architects, although they were denied regional awards in the preliminary judging.

Mr Hopkins wins another award for a circular cutlery factory built for David Mellor in Hathersage, Derbyshire.

The buildings are the Merseyside Tate Gallery at Albert Dock, Liverpool, by James Stirling, Michael Wilford and Associates; and the Solid

State Logic headquarters at Oxford, by Michael Hopkins and Partners.

RIBA rules permit juries judging for national awards to call in buildings they consider of special merit, even if they were not regional winners.

Mr Hopkins wins another award for a circular cutlery factory built for David Mellor in Hathersage, Derbyshire.

The other winners are: the Courts of Justice at Truro, Cornwall, by Eldred Evans and David Shale; Richmond House, Whitehall, central London, by

the Property Services Agency and William Whitfield; the Citicorp bank building, converted from the former Billingsgate Market in the City of London by Richard Rogers; Nichols Grinshaw's "transparent" printing works at Middlesbrough; the Ecotrust Centre, Cranfield in Bedfordshire by Cheshire, Powell, Bow & Woods; Haward House, Kentish Town, north-west London, by Joanna van Heyningen and Borkin Haward; Homerton Hospital and Education Centre, east

London, by YRM Architects and Planners; Kings Meadow, Chester, by Anketell Associates; Millpond, Chagford, Devon, by Allen van der Steen Associates; the Nelson Mandela Community Primary School, Birmingham, by the city architect, W G Reed; court offices and library at Ledbury, Herefordshire, by William G McCormac; the headquarters of Next, at Enderby, Leicestershire, by ORMS Designers and Architects; and TSB Scotland, St Andrews, by Nigel Russell Studio.

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Union pulls out of scheme for General Teaching Council

By Douglas Broome, Education Reporter

Plans to set up a General Teaching Council received a setback yesterday, only two days after it was disclosed that an outline agreement had been reached on the scheme.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, one of the six teachers' unions which agreed in principle before Christmas to set up a limited company to oversee the project, said it was not willing to go further.

The council would oversee professional standards in English and Welsh schools.

The union's general secretary-designate, Mr Nigel de Gruchy, said: "We regard a GTC as a waste of time at the present time. The time for a GTC was probably the 1970s and as far as we can see it is an idea whose time has gone."

He said the union would not be willing to commit large sums of money to funding a secretariat to handle the formation of the new council because it believed that the Government would never endorse the concept.

The thought of this Government agreeing to the creation of a "producer-led"

honoured although all of the company's "community commitments" would be reviewed if Kingfisher won control. A spokesman for Kingfisher said it appeared that the CTC sponsorship deal was legally binding.

One of the authors of a report on the playground killing of a 13-year-old Asian boy at a Manchester school yesterday denied that the document was "patronizing" to a mother who gave evidence to the inquiry.

Mrs Kim Ruscoe was interviewed by the four-member inquiry team after she withdrew her son from a state primary school in protest at the Labour-controlled city council's anti-racist education policies. She said she believed parts of the 520-page report, to be published as a paperback today, which described her as "deprived" and "white working class", were "patronizing and libellous".

Mr Guy John, director of education in Hackney, east London, and a member of the inquiry team, said yesterday: "We attempted to quote her fairly and accurately and our analysis is objective."

Silver wine coolers to stay in Britain

SALVAGE.COM

John Shaw

The first heritage battle of the year was won yesterday when Lord Carrington, chairman of Christie's, gave the final £58,000 required to ensure that the threatened Chesterfield wine coolers remain in Britain.

He presented a cheque for the money to Lord Armstrong, chairman of the trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, at the official opening of an exhibition of Mohammed Al-Tajir's collection "The glory of the goldsmith" at Christie's London.

"Christie's has made this the best possible start to the new year for the Victoria and Albert Museum," Lord Armstrong said.

"While the two wine coolers will be housed separately at the V&A and the National Museums of Scotland, we are planning to display them together as often as possible."

The coolers were sold for £750,000 last year. However, the Government Reviewing Committee on the export of works of art stopped their departure to the United States to enable a British institution

to match the price by January 18. It also took the unusual step of "stamping" the coolers to indicate their special status.

An appeal was launched by the museums and the money was raised, with just over a fortnight to spare, through public donation assisted by the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the National Art Collections Fund.

The coolers were made by Paul de Lamerie (1688-1751) and Paul Crespin (1694-1770), two of the greatest eighteenth-century English goldsmiths, for the 4th Earl of Chesterfield on his appointment as British ambassador to The Hague.

They are considered to be the most outstanding examples of English silver in the French Late Regence style.

Mr John Murdoch, assistant director, collections, at the V&A, said: "It has been a good example of co-operation between museums and a marvellous precedent for the future."

Campaign for fairer subsidence payouts

By John Young

A campaign to obtain fairer treatment for people whose homes or businesses are damaged by mining subsidence has been launched amid claims that more than a quarter of all parliamentary constituents are or could in future be affected by deep mining.

A joint working party of the Country Landowners' Association, the National Farmers' Union, the British Property Federation, the Building Societies' Association, the Law Society and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors is sending letters to 170 MPs of all parties in areas where coal-bearing strata are known or thought to exist.

The list has been compiled by the Law Society in conjunction with British Coal, and includes such unlikely areas as Pembridge, the High Peak area of Derbyshire, Banbury, Abing-

don and Pearth. Mr John Henderson, chairman of the working party, says affected areas are widespread and extend far beyond the coalfields.

"We want to emphasize that this is no narrow issue, but a genuine cause for national concern. We are asking these MPs to support our drive for better compensation for people whose properties, lives and businesses are disrupted and sometimes destroyed by coal mining," he said.

British Coal said it took its responsibility for dealing with subsidence damage very seriously. Some 25,000 claims were received every year, of which between 90 and 95 per cent were settled satisfactorily.

The Government has put forward proposals for legislation covering subsidence and compensation, which are now the subject of consultation.

Salmon farmers agree to code on wildlife

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

Scottish salmon farmers have agreed with conservation groups on a code of conduct on the protection of predatory wildlife around fish farms, it was disclosed yesterday.

The agreement between the Scottish Salmon Growers' Association and the Nature Conservancy Council, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Marine Conservation Society, the Vincent Wildlife Trust and the Natural Environment Council's sea mammal unit should... cut indiscriminate shooting of wild animals attempting to feed on stocks.

Dr Jim Buchanan, technical director of the association, said the Farming and Predator Wildlife Guidelines offered farmers "detailed advice in relation to the law and species identification".

It also set out "anti-predatory measures such as netting and seal-scaring devices as well as humane shooting as a

Listening to the future with Dame Vera

PETER TREVOR



Dame Vera Lynn listening to children from Liberty Middle School, Mitcham, reading poems yesterday about what life would be like as a pensioner in the next century. Dame Vera was helping to launch the golden jubilee of the charity Age Concern, of which she is vice-president. Schoolchildren are taking part in a competition by writing poems, "rap" rhymes or blank verse to describe life in 50 years' time. The best 50 entries will be published later this year.

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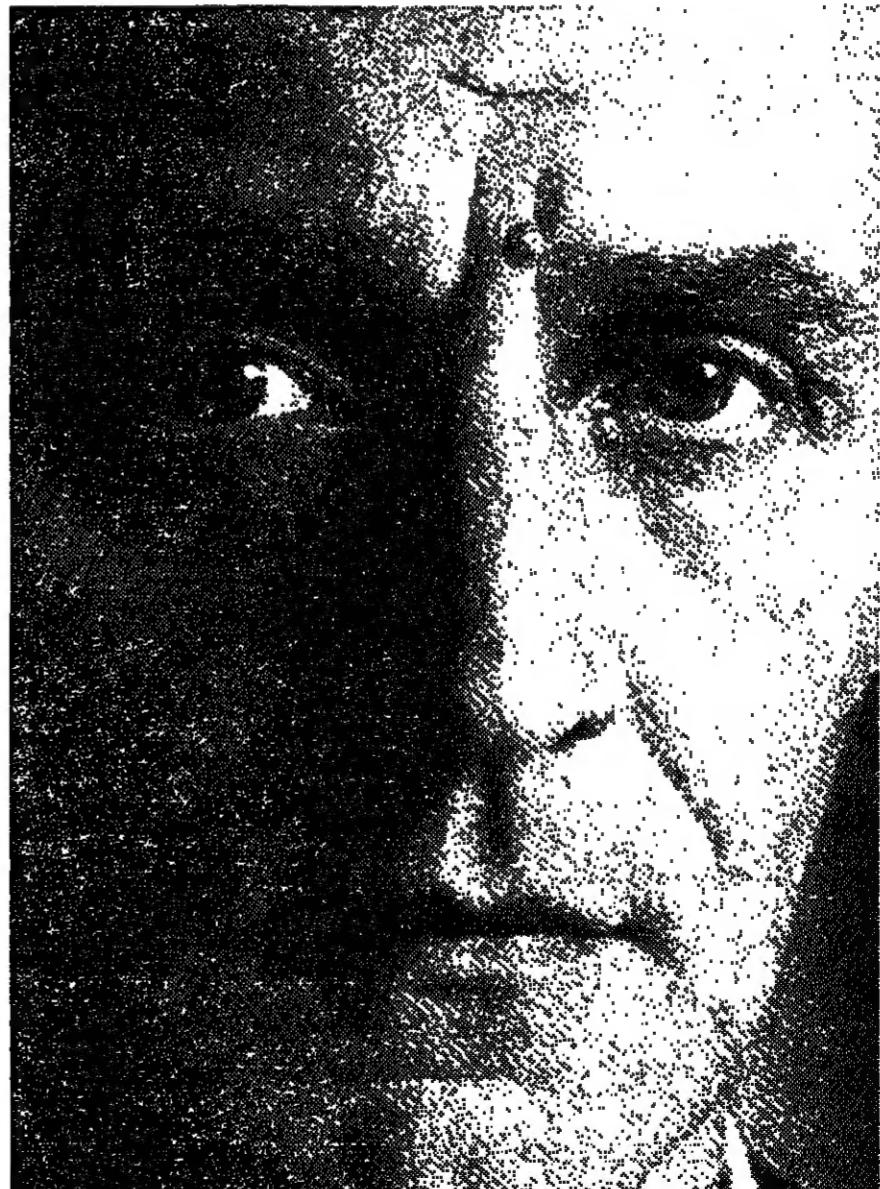
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PURPOSE OF LOAN					
YOURSELF SURNAME MR/MRS/MISS/MS					
TEL. NO. (DAY) STD	(EVEN STD)	FORENAME(S)			
NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS					
ANNUAL INCOME £					
PLEASE STATE IF SELF-EMPLOYED YES/NO NUMBER OF YEARS MONTHS OCCUPATION					
EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS					
NUMBER OF YEARS SERVICE					
YOUR PARTNER SURNAME MR/MRS/MISS/MS					
TEL. NO. (DAY) STD	(EVEN STD)	FORENAME(S)			
NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS					
ANNUAL INCOME £					
PLEASE STATE IF SELF-EMPLOYED YES/NO NUMBER OF YEARS MONTHS OCCUPATION					
EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS					
NUMBER OF YEARS SERVICE					
ESTIMATED VALUE £ COUNCIL DISCOUNT YES/NO AMOUNT £					
PLEASE TICK IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PAYMENT PROTECTION INSURANCE COVER FOR YOURSELF <input type="checkbox"/> SELF AND PARTNER <input type="checkbox"/>					
To LLOYDS BOWMAKER we confirm that all information shown above is accurate and agree that it shall form the basis of any loan agreement.					
We authorise you to release the information above to any third party as may be required in the course of your business or for the completion of general credit reference information. We authorise you to take up any references you require including information from our existing mortgagees.					
We hereby authorise you or your agents to inspect the register of our title at H.M. Land Registry.					
SIGNED DATE					
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Evidence grows of a planned coup

From Roger Boyes
Bucharest

The mythology of the Romanian revolution was beginning to crumble yesterday. An excited young man pushed himself in front of the cameras: "There was no conspiracy! This was a real revolution!"

A week ago, with blood on the pavement, there seemed no doubt about the authenticity of the snap revolution — and indeed, the bravery of thousands of Romanians is not in dispute.

But there is a crucial ambiguity about the role of the Army and the Foreign Ministry — the only two institutions under Ceausescu with regular communications to Moscow — and a growing suspicion that the popular uprising was in fact a carefully planned coup d'état.

The first myth has already gone: that 60,000 were killed in the Christmas fighting. Independent estimates now put the death toll closer to a still substantial 7,000.

Mr Aurel Dragos Munteanu, the new chairman of television, said yesterday that it was all a misunderstanding — the original high number referred to casualties, and not to deaths.

The Romanians need, from national pride, to believe the revolution was the result of spontaneous combustion, a spark that flew from the massacre in Timisoara to Bucharest, blasting the squares and streets, cracking the nerve of Ceausescu — in short, a truly national rebellion.

But there is considerable circumstantial evidence that some generals had prepared a contingency plan as early as last month, when a group of former Communist officials, including the influential former ambassador, Mr Silvius Brucan, published an open letter attacking Ceausescu.

This letter identified an opposition core. Now it has been disclosed that present members of the revolutionary Government were already meeting secretly six months ago, had contacts with generals, and had even agreed on the name of the National Salvation Front.

Promotion in the Army had been locked in for almost three years and younger officers especially were concerned about the real — rather than publicly declared — state of the



A young boy sitting behind a gun on a Romanian armoured personnel carrier under the watchful eye of a soldier in Republic Square, Bucharest, yesterday.

General Vasile Milea to refuse to shoot on the Bucharest crowds that made Ceausescu panic. The general was executed soon afterwards and has been made a posthumous

Bucharest (Reuters) — Romania's national news agency, once devoted to Ceausescu, announced yesterday it was changing its name from Agrespres to Romnews. Since the overthrow of Ceausescu, Agrespres has provided a daily "Romanian free press review" and reported extensively on the new leadership.

national hero. The Army changed sides with astonishing speed. The ruling Revolutionary Front barged their way into Ceausescu's office.

All this seems to have been innately programmed. In a foreign television inter-

view, a senior member of the executive committee of the revolutionary Government, Mr Casimir Ionescu, said: "We have been planning this for the past two years. We never thought we would get it off the ground — but we kept on with our meetings and followed Gorbachov very closely. We thought that the only people who could carry it out were retired people who had no jobs to lose, or Hungarians and Germans because Ceausescu wouldn't dare to kill them."

This is an amazing indiscretion because the official version is that the leadership was fused, in Mr Brucan's words, "in the flame of the revolution".

Why does it matter? Because the Romanians have to believe that they overthrew Ceausescu by themselves.

Nothing else can give the revolutionary authorities any legitimacy. Any suggestion of a conspiracy or, worse, of a Soviet connection, in some way diminishes the significance of the uprising.

Yet the timing of the revolution was very precise. Bucharest wits say that the Polish revolution was made in 10 years, the Hungarian in 10 months, the East German in 10 weeks, the Czechoslovak in 10 days — and the Romanian in 10 hours.

Certainly Ceausescu was out of the country, visiting Iran, and Soviet "humanitarian" assistance came very quickly indeed. Did this include ammunition? The National Salvation Front denies it vehemently. But it is a fact that the Army ran out of ammunition after two days' fighting, that new supplies

came from mysterious sources within a day, that rail traffic from the Soviet Union was blocked on that day and that the head of the National Salvation Front telephoned Mr Gorbachov very early in the revolution.

Nobody has an interest in

delving deeply. The most likely explanation is that the Army was ready to seize on any popular flare-up.

The Army is now pivotal to

the future of the revolution. The military leadership is now completely aligned with the revolutionary Government.

But if the management of the economy runs out of control, or if there is pressure from the students to radicalize the revolution, then the Army may well grow impatient. If it withdraws its support from the Government, then Romania will plunge into chaos.

There is no political class

From Roger Boyes, Bucharest

apart from that created by critic of Ceausescu, and so the revolution has to reach an accommodation with the *ancien régime*. Slavic cultures purge, the Latin shoot, kiss and forget. It is the same elasticity that allowed Romania, and indeed Italy, to change sides with such agility in war.

"I want everyone in this meeting to decide whether they really served culture over the past years," he told his stunned officials. "The older members of this ministry can be retired, the younger ones will be found jobs elsewhere. Please examine your hearts and see who is left on January 3."

Nobody had ever spoken to officials like that before; it was a new language. Appeals to conscience have been as rare in Romania as salami and 100-watt lightbulbs.

This is the time of great and sudden conversions. Sauls are turning into Pauls. The man who was so unpleasant to me in the Foreign Ministry, who blocked a visa to Romania for five years, pulled me into a Hollywood hug, kissed both cheeks, and declared: "At last we're free!"

Whole embassies are denouncing the fiendish dictator whom they were so convincingly defending and promoting just six weeks ago.

The

same people who applauded Ceausescu 67 times at the party congress in November are calling for the dissolution of their own party. At student meetings, professors preface their speech by admitting to shameless opportunism in the past; journalists sign off their articles by announcing that these are the first truthful words they have written for 20 years.

The impression is of being caught in a huge marquise of evangelists, surrounded by people who speak in tongues or find salvation. It provokes a degree of cynicism.

Where is the opposition? The Securitate is either lurking in attics plotting its next move or, yes, converting. This is the necessary theatre of revolution; necessary, that is, if opposition has been as thoroughly neutered as it was under Ceausescu. Perhaps they too then are a kind of victim.

The legacy of austerity

Food supply crucial to prevent unrest

From Anatol Lieven
Iasi, Soviet-Romanian border

Food and fuel shortages did as much as anything to bring down the Ceausescu regime in Romania — and could equally threaten the new Government.

Mr Florentin Carpani, the director of the country's largest agro-industrial enterprise, said bleakly that "hunger and cold" had been the most important factors in the overthrow of the late dictator.

So food provision is the most urgent task facing provisional administrators, leading to exports of Romania's main products, food and oil, being "temporarily" suspended.

To pay off the huge foreign debts incurred by his regime, Ceausescu launched a forced export policy in 1981 without any consideration for the well-being of the people. The result has been widespread malnutrition, and a mortality rate rumoured to have risen sharply.

In the wake of the provisional Government's announcement that peasant farmers are to be allowed to own small pieces of land and grow produce for the free market, it is unclear both how the foreign contracts made under Ceausescu's policy can be honoured — even after a delay — and how long Romania can suspend

export of these commodities without plunging into inflation and a balance-of-payments crisis.

The Government will be helped, however, by the fact that Ceausescu apparently did succeed in paying off most of the country's debts.

Some of the new leaders are afraid that if they cannot stabilize the food situation at a reasonable level, popular anger may turn against them. And demonstrators in Oradea, people in

Tehran (Reuters) — Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, said President Rafsanjani supported Ceausescu's visit last month because of defence contracts. Ceausescu signed deals, worth billions of dollars, on technical assistance in return for Iranian gas and oil supplies.

Timisoara, and Mr Cyprian Dima, a member of the Committee of National Salvation in Brasov, all expressed concern because many black marketeers have joined the local committees of the provisional administration.

If there are economic disturbances, a fear exists that Romania's progress towards democracy could be checked. The chairman of the local Committee of National Salvation in one of the main cities fears that "we could well

see a second wave of unrest". He added that, although he had good relations with the military, the economic situation is a reason not wholly to trust the Army. Democracy in an inexperienced people, in a state of economic misery, risks turning into anarchy. This might possibly cause a brutal intervention to put an end to democratic growth.

In that case, he said, the many local Securitate forces which did not fight back against the revolution but quietly placed themselves under the command of the Army might have a chance to come into their own again.

Justifying the Committee of National Salvation's failure to announce anything concrete concerning investigations and possible trials of Securitate personnel, one of its members said: "If I say 'No', we are not going to investigate them, I can't predict the response of the crowd. And if I say 'Yes', they will be investigated", it means that all those who still have access to information could begin to prepare a counter-attack.

For the moment, any intervention by former members of the Securitate seems remote, since the supply situation has greatly improved.

In Timisoara, meat is readily available in the shops. In Iasi, the

administration has distributed its stocks of coffee, which is selling freely at less than a sixth of its previous prohibitive blackmarket price of almost half an average monthly salary for a kilo.

This situation of greater availability of supplies is unlikely to last for long, particularly if people begin to hord.

But Professor Doru Tigau, chairman of the local committee in Iasi, said he was confident the town could get through the winter without serious further shortages of basic foods.

Furthermore, he claimed even to have sent 140 wagonloads of food to other areas, and pointed out that people's expectations were not high, and that "things can hardly get worse than they were before".

Mr Carpani, director of the Comitit agro-industrial conglomerate in Timisoara, is also one of the men with the greatest responsibility for keeping the people fed.

As head of what is said to be the world's largest exporter of pork products, he will have to try to square the circle of distributing food at home without completely sacrificing exports. Mr Carpani says that he is confident that his foreign trading partners will show "patience and understanding" over the problems faced by Romania.

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Berlin communists to lay off staff as power base shrinks

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

The East German Socialist Unity (communist) Party is to lay off a substantial number of full-time party workers as a recognition of its shrinking role in the country's political structure.

In an interview with *Neues Deutschland*, the party daily, Herr Lothar Bisky, a member of the standing committee which replaced the Politburo in December, said a "considerably smaller apparatus" would govern the party's affairs in the run-up to the May elections.

Herr Bisky did not say how many employees would lose their jobs or whether they would be redeployed outside the party. Many functionaries, previously responsible for policy and propaganda, have been relieved of their posts in recent weeks and will be stripped of their party perks, such as Western cars and access to special restaurants.

The special restaurant for Politburo members in the communist party's rambling headquarters has been closed.

Country homes and health farms owned by the party are to be converted into hotels for foreign visitors, or hostels for party members recuperating

The spokesman did not say

where the couple would be rehoused.

• Private talks: Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, held private talks yesterday with various small parties and opposition groups, who make up the country's round-table talks, in an attempt to stave off a split in their ranks. Some opposition groups and the Liberal Democratic Party had complained that the communist party was assuming too significant a role in the talks. Herr Modrow said his Government wanted to hear suggestions for change from all organizations concerned.

"If we do not succeed now in creating a climate of mutual regard we will find it difficult to create the right climate for free and democratic elections in May," he said.

• Police fall: East Germany's Office for National Security, which replaced the hated Stasi secret police, will be disbanded by June 20 (AFP reports). The many buildings that are occupied by the organization will be converted for public use and placed at the disposal of companies and institutions as quickly as possible.

These include Herr Erich Honecker, the former leader, and Frau Margot Honecker, his wife and former Education Minister, who are both still under house arrest in the complex.

The spokesman did not say

Neo-Nazi attacks in East Germany

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

A new year campaign of attacks by neo-Nazis on grave stones and memorials to the victims of fascism has spread rapidly through East Germany, according to reports in the official media yesterday.

The giant memorial to the Red Army in the Treptow Park in East Berlin has been repeatedly vandalized over the past few days and smeared with fascist slogans.

The communist party daily *Neues Deutschland* reported that groups of skinheads and neo-Nazis of all ages had roamed the streets of Gera in the south of the country since New Year's Eve desecrating the Soviet graveyard there.

In Dresden and Görlitz near the Polish border, further attacks were reported yesterday with walls smeared with slogans such as "We are back", "Hitler lives", and giant swastikas painted on buildings. Details also emerged yesterday of neo-

WORLD ROUNDUP

Noriega talks envoy arrives

Monsignor Giacinto Berloco, a Vatican envoy, arrived in Panama City yesterday to help negotiate requests for the release of General Manuel Noriega, the deposed dictator, from his refuge in the Vatican mission there (Our Foreign Staff writes). A church official said it was up to the general to decide when to leave, but Vatican officials have said they were urging him to leave of his own accord.

Meanwhile, 19 of 20 US diplomats expelled from Managua in retaliation for a mistaken raid by US troops on the home of the Nicaraguan Ambassador to Panama City have returned to the US. The other diplomat had left the country earlier. The first 141 of 14,000 additional US troops sent to Panama for last month's invasion have also returned home, leaving more than 25,800 to continue a mop-up operation.

Afghan 'coup attempt'

Kabul (AFP) — A group of Afghan generals, including the air defence chief, were arrested here last month for plotting a coup against President Najibullah, government sources here said. The plot, which resulted in 127 arrests including those of 11 generals, could further widen rifts within the ranks of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, said the sources, who refused to be identified. The air defence chief and the commanding general of a rocket base in the Karta district of Kabul, were among the arrested, all members of the party's pro-military Khalq faction.

Cold spell claims 109

Delhi (AFP) — At least 109 people have died across northern India in a cold spell which has frozen mountain lakes, burst water pipes and hit transport services, news reports said yesterday. The Press Trust of India said the death toll in the cold wave had risen to 87 in eastern Bihar state, 17 in northern Uttar Pradesh and five in western Gujarat. It gave no details of the deaths, but most are believed to be of homeless, who sleep in the open in cities and towns across the country including the capital. The temperature plunged to 2°C in Bihar.

New triads threat

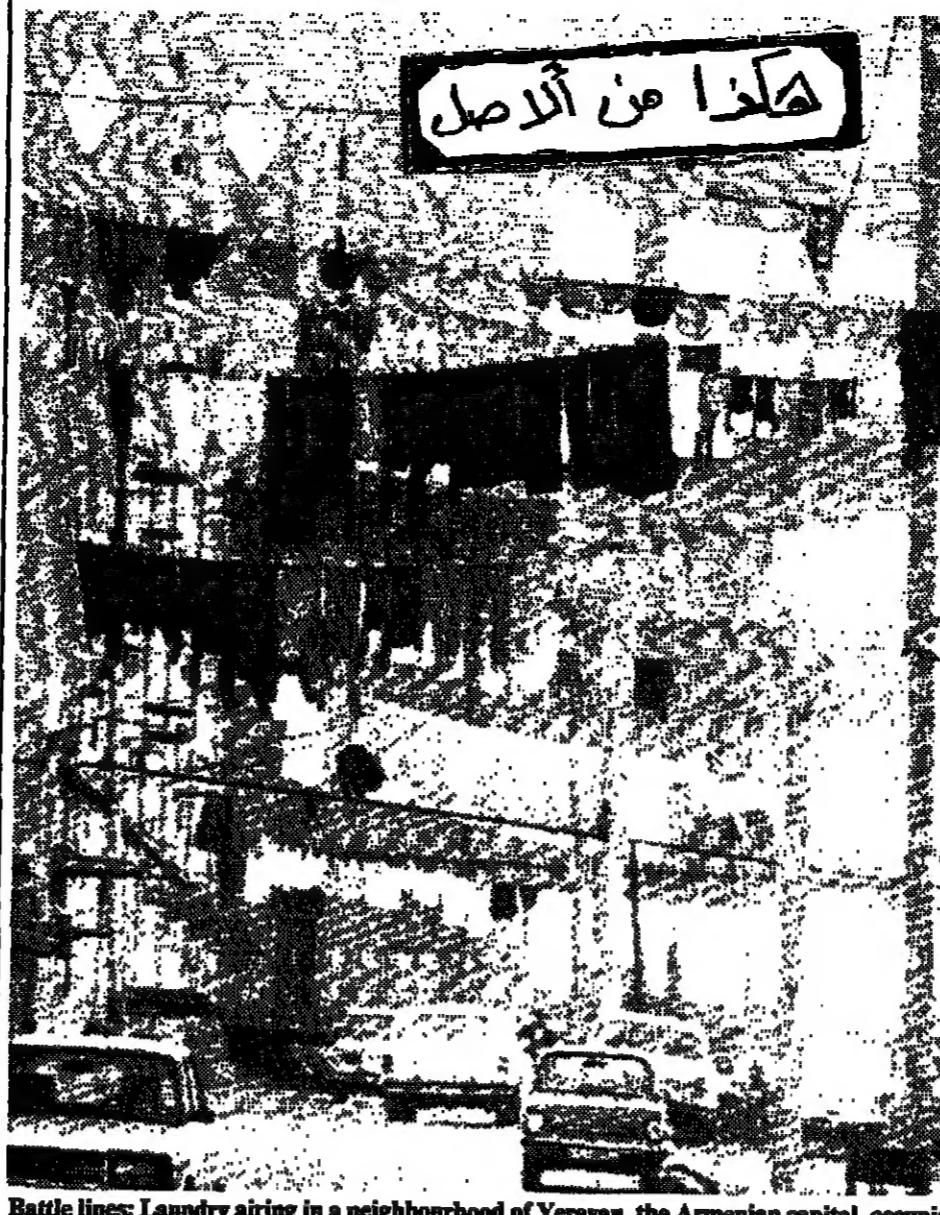
Peking (AFP) — War has been declared on Chinese triad crime syndicates which are making a comeback with gangs in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, the New China news agency reports. Dismantled by the police when the communists came to power in 1949, the syndicates have re-emerged in the southern province of Guangdong and in coastal provinces. A new campaign includes action against prostitution, pornography, trading in women and children, drugs, gambling and profiting from superstition.

Texas family boost

Austin, Texas (AP) — When Mr Ron Thompson sat down for lunch on New Year's Eve, he was the grandfather of five. At breakfast on Monday, he was a grandfather of nine. Three of his daughters, Mary Tolson, Joan Thompson and Carol Thompson, gave birth to four boys at Seton Medical Centre last on Sunday and early on Monday. The mothers and the four boys were in good condition on New Year's Day.

Azerbaijani killed in Soviet bus ambush

By Our Foreign Staff



Battle lines: Laundry airing in a neighbourhood of Yerevan, the Armenian capital, occupied by Armenian refugees from the bitter conflict with the Muslims in neighbouring Azerbaijan.

One person died and three were injured when a bus full of Azerbaijanis was ambushed in the southern Soviet region of Nagorno-Karabakh yesterday, apparently by Armenians, Tass reported.

The bus, escorted by police cadets, was shot at and stoned as it travelled through Armenian territory between the predominantly Azerbaijani towns of Aghdam and Shusha, the official agency reported.

"The cadets opened fire in self-defence in response," Tass went on. "Four citizens from the city of Stepanakert were injured, one of whom died."

Tass said several other bus passengers were also injured and a police car was set on fire.

After the bus arrived in Shusha, about 5,000 people gathered with the aim of travelling the three miles to Stepanakert to settle scores with the Armenians.

Tass said they were held back by Interior Ministry troops stationed in the region.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party chief in the Azerbaijani town of Dzhalabat is said to have been among 80 people injured in a clash between police and demonstrators demanding his ejection from office, an official said.

Mr Savili Perets, deputy director of the southern republic's official news agency Azerinform, said members of the Azerbaijani People's Front demonstrated in the town on Friday and Saturday.

They attacked the police and regional party headquarters in Dzhalabat, which had since stabilized.

Quoting interior ministry sources, Tass said that mobs had gone on the rampage last Friday, attacking the offices of the local militia and party district committee.

According to a local journalist quoted by Tass, most of the people were demanding the electoral rules be rewritten in advance of local polls.

An Iranian newspaper, *Kayhan*, has reported that Azerbaijani demonstrators on New Year's Eve burnt several Soviet frontier posts while calling for Muslim unity.

DISAPPOINTED OWNERS TAKE HEART

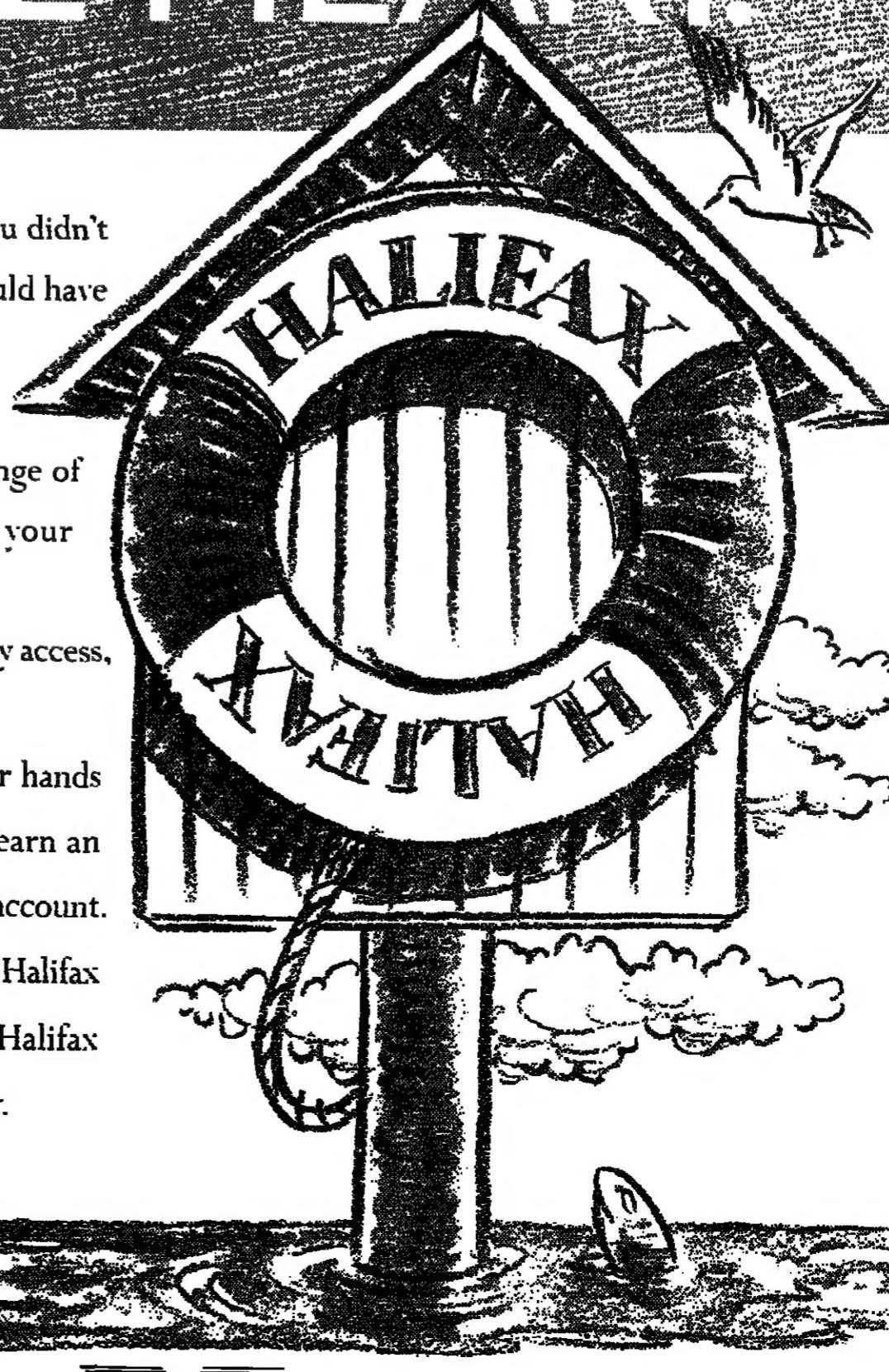
Don't drown your sorrows if you didn't get as many water shares as you would have hoped for.

As the world's No.1, Halifax Building Society has an enviable range of savings and investment plans for your returning water money.

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Israelis accused of encouraging troop killings of civilians

By Michael Krieger, Diplomatic Correspondent

Amnesty International, in a report published today, accuses the Israeli Government of condoning, even actively encouraging, its troops to shoot Palestinian civilians in an effort to contain the *intifada* in the occupied territories.

The human rights organization cites as evidence a pattern of certain killings of unarmed Palestinians, inadequate investigation of abuses by the authorities, and guidelines "which might actually permit unjustifiable killing".

It says: "We are concerned that, taken together, these factors appear to add up to more than just tolerance of serious abuses, and amount to real encouragement of them."

Amnesty calls for an urgent review of the guidelines under which troops are permitted to open fire. It also says there should be a comprehensive judicial inquiry into what it describes as extensive and serious human rights violations committed by Israeli military forces since the *intifada* began two years ago.

In an "alarming" high number of instances, the report says, those shot do not appear to have been involved in life-threatening or even violent activities, and it questions whether stone-throwing incidents, in which people,

often children, have been shot, are a serious enough danger to justify the use of firearms.

The report accuses Israeli forces of hampering, sometimes withholding, emergency medical care to casualties.

More than 540 people have died during the *intifada*, the report says, with the use of force often excessive and indiscriminate. The guidelines regulating circumstances in which troops may open fire

Jerusalem (Reuters) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least nine Palestinians in the occupied territories yesterday and demolished the house in the West Bank of a resident suspected of killing a fellow Palestinian.

are said often to have been disregarded, it adds.

The guidelines "appear to permit the killing of people who are involved in activities which do not necessarily endanger life, or are suspected of having been involved in such activities, or who are in fact simply wearing masks", the report states. If this is so, it continues, the guidelines are incompatible with the 1979 United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials.

About half the 540 unarmed civilians shot dead in the

intifada were aged 18 or under, says the report. More than 110 were under 16 and some only three or four. The report documents several specific cases which, it says, suggest excessive use of force or deliberate killing.

One incident occurred last March 19 when Samer Aruri, a boy aged 11, was playing football in the West Bank village of Silwan el-Harithiya.

A convoy of soldiers entered the village, the report says, apparently to warn the population that houses were to be destroyed. "When they saw the soldiers arriving, the children ran to higher ground to watch what was going on. It is not clear whether they also threw stones. One soldier got out of his vehicle and opened fire, apparently without warning," it continues.

Samer Aruri was fatally wounded in the neck and fell to the ground. One of his friends was injured in the legs. The same soldier is then said to have swung round and fired at other youths. One bullet hit 17-year-old Numan Jaradat in the head. He died several hours later at Rambam hospital in Haifa."

The report also notes that 130 Palestinians have been killed by other Palestinians in the same period, some after interrogation and torture.

Bush lets a little one get away



President Bush was after bigger fish when he threw back this small bass during a fishing trip to Montgomery, Alabama. He later landed a 5lb specimen, but Mrs Barbara Bush, who wants that she would far rather stay at home than join her husband on his hunting and fishing trips, caught a six-pounder. President Bush had a bad press during his summer holiday in Maine with an unsuccessful run of sea-fishing trips. Announcing the outcome of the presidential fishing battle, Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, told

journalists aboard Air Force One, flying the presidential couple back to Washington, that they had had a friendly argument about who had bagged the bigger fish. But, he added, the First Lady had clearly won. All the fish caught were, in fact, thrown back into the water.

US coalmine dispute nears end

From Susan Ellicott, Washington

In a step towards ending a bitter and violent strike at America's largest coal exporter, the United Mine Workers' Union and the Pittston Coal Company have reached a tentative agreement on a new contract.

The nine-month strike, reflecting a trend in US labour disputes, was not over wages but rather Pittston's decision to stop health and pension benefits for existing and retired miners. The issue is so emotive that, at one stage, 46,000 coalminers in 10 states stopped work to demonstrate their solidarity. Even a supportive delegation of Hungarians visited workers.

Strikers who telephoned the union's headquarters in West Virginia cried when they heard the news. Mr Joel Phillips, a union spokesman, said: "We want to return to a normal life and to work."

The two parties have been sparing of late over efforts by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to get Egyptian-mediated preliminary talks going.

Mr Weizman has denied

direct contacts with PLO leaders,

which are against Israeli law.

But he said on Monday he had received a telephone call from a PLO figure in Tunis

and that he had shared knowledge of the call with other governmental officials.

tween strikers and other Pittston employees.

The settlement was hailed as a success, but the halt in work has dented the influence the union gained over the past 10 years which were practically free of strikes. Many operators of mines felt betrayed following the wildcat strikes by 46,000 workers.

The strike will continue until the contract is ratified by 1,700 miners and the firm's board of directors within 10 days. If ratified, the new contract would mark a firm break with the once-powerful union and could end national contract negotiations in the coal industry.

The strike erupted in April after Pittston said that it wanted to end its contributions to the union's health and pension schemes, to cut costs to stay competitive with foreign coal producers. In the US, where health care is expensive without insurance, company health plans are considered a vital part of a worker's

remuneration. "This is a victory for collective bargaining," said Mr William Usery, a federal mediator appointed last October by Mrs Elizabeth Hanford Dole, the Labour Secretary, to resolve the crisis.

Mr Usery said the Pittston negotiations were difficult because of the acrimony. His appointment, hailed by union officials and the head of Pittston as a "magical stroke", reflected a greater willingness by the Bush Administration to intervene in disputes than that of Mr Ronald Reagan.

Mr Dole said: "One of the difficult issues in this dispute was the long-term security of the pension and health care benefits of the miners and of their families. But the issue is larger than this particular dispute."

Mr Dole announced that she had helped the intense round-the-clock 62 days of negotiations by pledging to appoint a special commission to study how the American coal industry might cope with

growing benefit costs and the deficits of some pension funds. The settlement will provide a key to the future role of the federal Government in protecting health care benefits for retired workers.

Pittston workers in Virginia and Kentucky had been working for 14 months without a contract before they went on strike. The company reported that it lost \$3.6 million (£2.23 million) in the first three months of the strike and a further \$9.8 million in the following three. This compared with profits of \$9 million and \$7.4 million in the same months of the previous year.

Mr Richard Trunka, the president of the miners' union, described the tentative settlement as "a victory for the labour movement".

Mr Paul Douglas, the chairman of Pittston, spoke of "mutual achievement of mutual objectives", but emphasized that co-operation would be required.

China to let rebel Fang go into exile

From Jonathan Brande, Hong Kong

Professor Fang Lizhi, the dissident Chinese astrophysicist, and his wife will be allowed to leave the People's Republic for Australia this month under a deal worked out between Peking and the United States, a magazine here reported yesterday.

Pai Shing, which is usually well informed on Chinese affairs, said that the couple's departure on January 27 was agreed during last month's much-criticized visit to China by Mr Brent Scowcroft, the US National Security Adviser.

The current affairs magazine reported it was established that the couple should leave for a country other than America and that the deal was settled about 10 days later during a visit to China by Mr Michael Costello, an Australian special envoy.

Professor Fang and his wife, Miss Li Shuxian, also an outspoken critic of the Chinese Government, took refuge in the US Embassy a few days after Chinese troops crushed the pro-democracy protests in Peking last June, and have remained there since.

The Chinese leadership has branded Professor Fang a traitor and counter-revolutionary, demanding that the US turn him over to the police. In the US, the couple have become a cause célèbre and the Bush Administration has said their plight must be resolved before relations with Peking can return to normal.

Although the couple's release would be seen in the US as helping the President's attempt to repair ties with China, observers say it would be a serious loss of face for Peking to let two of its most wanted dissidents slip through its fingers so publicly.

But the magazine said Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese paramount leader, had approved the professor's exile to a third country provided he gave up all political activity once there. *Pai Shing* said Professor Fang had agreed not to take part in politics once he was in Australia.



Professor Fang: Took refuge in US Embassy last June.

Weizman agreement to quit inner Cabinet defuses crisis

From A Correspondent, Jerusalem

The latest Israeli political crisis was defused yesterday when Mr Ezer Weizman, the flamboyant Science Minister, agreed to leave the policy-making inner Cabinet in exchange for a decision by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, not to fire him.

The controversy began on Sunday, when Mr Shamir surprised the Cabinet and announced he would dismiss Mr Weizman within 48 hours because of "direct and indirect contacts with the PLO". Israel considers the Palestine Liberation Organization to be a terrorist group.

The controversy had threatened to split the fragile coalition between Mr Shamir's right-wing Likud party and the left-of-centre Labour Party, which have ruled together since November 1988.

The compromise resolution came yesterday at a meeting in Mr Shamir's office with Mr Weizman. Afterwards, Mr

Weizman, a former RAF fighter pilot, said: "There is no admission of guilt here. Admission of guilt can be court after a sentence is passed, and this has not happened."

He added: "It's a typical Middle East compromise."

Mr Yossi Ahimeir, an aide to Mr Shamir, said after the meeting: "There is no longer a crisis."

He declared: "A man who was once Defence Minister and air force commander will no longer be in the inner Cabinet, with Labour's agreement... today it is clear to the Egyptians and the Americans — and anyone who wants to know — that the PLO is not a partner for negotiations."

Mr Ahimeir made it clear that Mr Weizman would remain his science portfolio and said his removal from the inner Cabinet "will be reconsidered after 18 months".

Mr Weizman leaves for Moscow today for meetings with Soviet scientists. The crisis was the worst in the Government since last summer, when Labour threatened to leave the Government after a Likud government committee added hardline conditions to the Israeli peace plan. The row was resolved when the Cabinet reaffirmed the plan, which calls for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to select Palestinians to open talks with Israel on limited autonomy.

The two parties have been sparing of late over efforts by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to get Egyptian-mediated preliminary talks going.

Mr Weizman has denied

direct contacts with PLO leaders,

which are against Israeli law.

But he said on Monday he had received a telephone call from a PLO figure in Tunis

and that he had shared knowledge of the call with other governmental officials.

Sri Lankan guerrillas complete humiliation of Delhi peace-keeping force

Indian shame heightens as reluctant Tamil boy soldiers go home

From Christopher Thomas, Madras

In a final mockery of India's entanglement in Sri Lanka, hundreds of captured Tamil boy soldiers — some only 14 years old — are being returned to their parents by the Sri Lankan Army and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The boys have battled, if that is not an overstatement, for less than a month against the highly experienced Tigers. Most were forcibly recruited into an Indian-backed group, the Tamil National Army, to fight the Tigers. Most surrendered promptly or fled at the first sign of fighting.

Many gave themselves up to Sri Lankan security forces after making their way out of the Tamil-dominated northern and eastern regions. Many also surrendered to the Tigers, who commanded

their Indian-supplied weapons. A Tigers official said: "We are always glad when the Indians start handing out more weapons. It doesn't take long for the guns to start finding their way to us."

If there is one permanent legacy of the two-and-a-half-year Indian entanglement on the island, it is the glut of arms now at the disposal of fighting Tamil groups.

The timing and circumstances of the final withdrawal of India's remaining 25,000 troops, conditionally due on March 31 under present plans, were discussed in talks between Sri Lankan and Indian officials in Delhi yesterday.

Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, may fly to Delhi today if the talks show signs of progress. Sri Lanka would like the pull-out target brought forward unconditionally.

The defeat of the Tamil National

Army is being fully exploited by the Tigers for its undeniable propaganda potential. Their victory has reinforced their tremendous popularity among Tamils of the Northern and Eastern provinces. The Tigers are going out of their way to

Stonewall leaders are optimistic that the Tigers may genuinely be turning into a more conciliatory organization, although there is still a good deal of nervousness.

India is bitterly resented by most Tamils for dragging large numbers of youths into uniform and giving them only rudimentary training before sending them off to fight a highly experienced and motivated guerrilla force. If 50,000 trained Indian soldiers could not crush the Tigers in two-and-a-half years — and more than 1,000 Indians were killed in the attempt — it is hard to see how a much smaller group of youths was supposed to do the job. Scores have died. The toll of non-Tigers in the battle for the eastern

port of Batticaloa alone is put at 100. The security forces announced the release of 370 former Tamil National Army recruits to their parents this week. They had deserted and given themselves up to the military. The Tigers, too, released 150 young people to their parents in the Batticaloa region, the latest of several groups to be returned home.

Lieutenant-General Hamilton Wainwright, the Army Commander, promised government protection to those surrendering their arms and returning home. The Government would give protective custody to anybody requesting it.

The Tigers, meanwhile, have put up posters throughout the north and east warning Tamil National Army men to surrender or face "dire consequences".

Indian troops have now pulled

back to the strategic areas of Jaffna in the north and Trincomalee in the north-east, and India has started talking, in Madras, directly to the Tigers for the first time in years to try to save the Indian-backed groups from a mauling once the Indian forces have left.

The Tigers have made it plain that their fight will continue until the Tamil National Army is disbanded and the other main Indian-backed organization, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, lays down its arms.

Sri Lanka has formally recognized the Tigers' newly created political party, the People's Front of Liberation Tigers. The move brought immediate and fierce protests from Indian-backed rival Tamil groups, which accused Colombo of giving arms, money, vehicles and passports to the Tigers.

British pollution expert denies oil-slick risk to Morocco

From Michael McCarthy, Paris

A huge oil slick supposed to be threatening the coast of Morocco with "ecological disaster" is non-existent, one of Britain's leading maritime pollution experts reported last night after spending four hours flying over the area.

Dr Brian Dicks said that oil from the crippled Iranian tanker, Kharq-5, which had been reported was about to engulf the fishing ports, tourist beaches and shellfish beds of the Moroccan Atlantic shore, was dispersing naturally and harmlessly.

He said there was "no sign whatsoever" of the 175-mile-long mass of oil, whose alleged threat to the coast prompted the Moroccan Government to call at the weekend for international help.

Dr Dicks, a marine biologist aged 42, is a senior technical adviser to the London-based International Tanker Owners' Pollution Federation, and used to run an oil pollution research centre in Wales.

Dr Dicks told *The Times* afterwards: "We saw very little oil. The huge slick which

was meant to be threatening the coast is, in my opinion, non-existent. "We saw a couple of fairly large patches which are just sheer, but they didn't amount to a couple of tonnes of oil." Dr Dicks dismissed a suggestion which was made at the weekend by the celebrated oceanographer, Commander Jacques-Yves Cousteau, that the shore was facing "ecological catastrophe".

"The worst I can see happening is some oil coming ashore if there is a storm," Dr Dicks said. "If there is no storm, there will be no coastal pollution at all. The threat has been completely exaggerated."

He said that oil from the tanker, which was abandoned after an explosion on December 19, was particularly light and that he thought at least half had evaporated, with the

rest breaking up in the water. Dr Dicks said the oil had been in the ocean for more than a fortnight, during which time three storms had buffeted the area.

He said that "every day that goes by probably lessens the threat".

Dr Dicks said he found it "strange" that the Moroccans were continuing to ask for international help.

"I think there have been some alarmist statements and reports. I doubt if there will be any significant biological damage from this oil at all."

He said it was now remained would be swept into mid-Atlantic by the Canary current.

TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Overworked MPs can look forward to a more leisurely 1990 with the reintroduction of pairing. I can exclusively reveal. The system was abolished by Labour after the 1983 election, when the large intake of new left-wing MPs felt that collaborating with Tories to get an evening off and miss a Commons vote was at odds with their class-warrior image. Seven years and many wasted late nights later, most MPs have come to realize that life is a lot easier with a little cross-party collaboration — as several old-timers on the Labour side who have discreetly maintained their pairs could have told them. One such is Andrew Faulds, who has paired for years with Norman Lamont, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. He is delighted by the Labour whip's change of heart, though he does not care for the way they slap three-line obligatory attendance on "every little bit of trivial business". Faulds is particularly aggrieved because while pairing has not been officially recognized, he and colleagues with informal pairs have been continually marked down as absent without leave, which does not always go down well with their constituents.

One Labour MP who will continue to disdain pairing is Dennis Skinner. Soon after he arrived at Westminster in 1970, the Heath government staged a series of late-night votes on its family income supplement proposals. Before the first vote, Skinner was approached by a Tory MP who asked if he was "ready to go". Skinner replied: "If you want to go, then you go." Taking this as an agreement to pair, the Tory went home. Skinner stayed and voted, and the government majority fell by one. The same thing happened for the second vote. The next morning, Skinner was hauled up before Bob Mellish, Labour's formidable chief whip of the time, who accused him, among other things, of undermining the basis of parliamentary democracy. "I've not come here to pair with Tories," an unrepentant Skinner told him. "I've met your sort before," Mellish replied, "fresh-faced newcomers who think they can buck the system. You'll be pairing like the rest of us within twelve months." Nearly 20 years later, Skinner has still never paired and last year recorded the highest attendance of any MP, beating even the whips on both sides for the number of times he trooped through the voting lobby.



One of the less successful parliamentary campaigns of 1989 was Labour MP Jon Ashton's attempt to have real ale served in the many bars of the Palace of Westminster. For the past year he has been trying to persuade the Commons catering committee and its chairman, Conservative MP Sir Charles Irving, that it is unacceptable that the nation's legislators (and political journalists) should have to drink in "the only pub in the West End which doesn't serve real ale". Unfortunately, Ashton says, the Westminster cellar has been hijacked to store fine French wines so that "the beautiful real beer of Britain cannot find a place in its own Parliament". He seemed to have accepted defeat when I spoke to him yesterday, consoling himself with the small victory of persuading the powers-that-be to stock Urquell Pilsner, a real ale from Czechoslovakia which comes in 1½ pint bottles. It's not for the MPs, who never touch anything stronger than mineral water, Ashton explains. But guests do like a good pint.

We have not heard the last of Professor Sir Alan Walters. The first draft of his book on the events which led to his resignation and that of Nigel Lawson will be delivered this week to Graham Mather, director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, which is due to publish it in association with Collins. In April, Walters has also paid several visits to his former employer at 10 Downing Street and will probably see her again when he is in London next month for an international monetary conference organized by the IEA. Anxious to appear even-handed, the IEA has asked Sir Alan to chair the session on the globalization of finance. That on European monetary union has been left to Sam Brittan, a vigorous supporter of the former chancellor.

"I'm John Gielgud," I say. "I'm Paul Scofield," says Hugh Lloyd. Dinsdale Landen leans across the formica and strikes a raffish pose. "And I'm Edith Evans." Unblinkingly, the stage doorman hands us the keys to our dressing rooms, which are all named after famous stars, and we shuffle on up for the matinee.

"My knees are killing me," I whine. "I'm glad to hear it," says Dinsdale. "So are mine. I had dinner with one of the country's top psychiatrists — or maybe she was a psychologist. Anyway she knew immediately what it was."

I move a stage weight to keep my door ajar so that we can yell at each other down the corridor. Hugh lets Death in through the pass door.

"We all express tension through different parts of our bodies." I can hear familiar

In his campaign to put suspected Nazi war criminals on trial in Britain, Greville Janner MP has been understandably emotional. Many of his relatives died in the Baltic states during the war, victims of the Final Solution. The difficulty of prosecuting men in their seventies who are accused of crimes that took place more than 45 years ago has not discouraged Janner from his crusade, which produced the decisive vote in Parliament last month to allow the trials. "I want these people to get the fair trial my family never had," Janner said.

But can any jurisdiction give them a fair trial? Their conviction will depend on two factors: documentary evidence, largely from the Soviet Union, and eyewitness identification. Questions about the evidence from the Soviet Union are manifest. But perhaps more troubling still are the difficulties with identification procedures.

Human memory is fallible, even about recent events. In 1976, after the false conviction of a Bristol man for robbery and wounding (solely on eyewitness evidence), the Devlin inquiry concluded that courts

can protect the falsely accused only by increasing the burden of proof. But in the anguish that surrounds war crimes, the face-to-face identification of the accused by people who claim to have been their victims has a special weight.

Neil Sher, director of the US Office of Special Investigation (set up to investigate war criminals) was quoted in *The Times* recently as saying that key witnesses could accurately recall facts and sights because of the horror of their experiences. Evidence does not bear him out.

In the late 1970s, 12 Polish Jews identified Frank Walus, a Pole living in Chicago, as a vicious Nazi. "I will never forget that face," declared Josef Koenigsberg, who identified him as a particularly brutal Gestapo officer who had beaten up his father and shot Jews. The atrocities Koenigsberg had seen were real enough, but the face was not the same. After an investigation,

the case against Walus was dropped. "We made a mistake," said the US prosecutor, and the court recommended that Walus be compensated.

A recent book by Professor Willem Wagenaar, an authority on forensic identification, details the wide margin of error in human memory and in identification procedures. Wagenaar was a defence witness in the 1987-88 trial in Jerusalem of John Demjanjuk, a Cleveland factory worker found guilty of being the death camp guard nicknamed Ivan the Terrible. His book, *Identifying Foe*, is in part a justification of his testimony, but its detailed review of the problems involved in identification techniques is important.

In the cases of Demjanjuk and Walus, for example, identification was made more difficult by the way Jewish prisoners related to their Nazi torturers. Eye contact was dangerous because it could be provocative, so pris-

oners learned never to look their guards directly in the face. In addition, most guards and Gestapo officers always wore caps in the presence of prisoners. Factors like these have to be considered, along with the physical changes which a man undergoes in 40 years or more, as well as memory fluctuations.

Such considerations are called estimator variables. To date, the only study of the specific estimator variables in the memories of death-camp survivors is one by Wagenaar and Groeneweg (1988). That study, based on the case of an NCO in a penal colony, suggests that memories are quite unreliable. For example, in 1984 a picture of the accused was shown to 35 witnesses who had suffered brutally under him in the camp; 41 witnesses (or 75 per cent) recognized him, but 14 did not. However, when those who had seen his face on television were discounted, the result was different. He was recognized by only 58 per cent.

System variables, on the other hand, are those related to the investigative procedure. What sort of photograph selection were the witnesses shown? Was the procedure in line with the Devlin recommendations that they be shown photographs that resemble the suspect, or did the suspect stand out as the only broad-faced Ukrainian? In a line-up, were they told that the suspect might not even be present? Were the foils chosen to resemble the suspect? What length of recognition time was allowed to witnesses? What was the false identification rate for a line-up in which the suspect was not present? In the case of John Demjanjuk, virtually every one of the Devlin recommendations for correct identification procedures was abrogated.

Many people believe that the moral issues relating to war crimes trials are simple. I think

they are quite complex. We may have to deal with accused men who genuinely believed the official Nazi view of the "Jewish menace" propagated by their superiors. Does this aggravate their crimes or mitigate them? Do we propose to hold people in a totalitarian state as responsible for their choices as those in a free state? If the men we are singling out for prosecution are distinguished by their brutality (no small accomplishment in the Third Reich, which was run by mass murderers), they must have been psychopaths.

But psychopaths are distinguished by their inability to live within the law. What are we to make of the uneventful lives that people like John Demjanjuk have lived in the 45 years since the war? Are they rehabilitated? Cured? Even if this is so, how can those of us who believe that retribution is a part of justice come to terms with leaving them unpunished? For some of us, the imponderability of these questions, coupled with the evidence difficulties, leads to one conclusion: that these old Nazis have lost their power to harm us in every way except one, namely, in their ability to force us to twist and distort our system of justice in order to catch them.

Make compassion compulsory

Continuing our series on reforms for the 1990s, Julia Neuberger puts the case for an income tax surcharge that would go to charity

Evidence is mounting that the tax cuts of the last 10 years have not engendered a more generous spirit among the taxpaying public. The theory that people with more disposable wealth would willingly increase their giving to charity has taken something of a knock.

Britons give only £3-£4.5 billion a year in charity, with a large proportion of that given by a few major donors. Those in the age group 25-44, who have most benefited from the Thatcher years, have not nearly increased their giving in line with their increase in wealth; indeed, 17 per cent of them give nothing to charity at all. The average donation by the population as a whole is a mere £2 per month, a figure which compares extremely unfavourably with that in the United States. Only 2.7 per cent of Britons give between £40 and £50 a month, while 40 per cent give £1 or less.

Payroll giving — the government scheme which encourages employees to authorize a given deduction from their salary — has got off to a slow start, with only £8-£9 million a year coming in from approximately 130,000 donors. It can be argued that the scheme has been less than successful because it is not sufficiently well known (the Government gave a paltry £50,000 to publicize the campaign, and did not publish details of it from the Central Office of Information), but there is another reason why the scheme is unsuccessful.

Though we in Britain react magnificently to disaster appeals

when our heartstrings are pulled and we see on television starving children or desperate conditions in refugee camps, we are less good at the day-to-day, planned charitable giving that is essential if many voluntary organizations and small associations are to keep going.

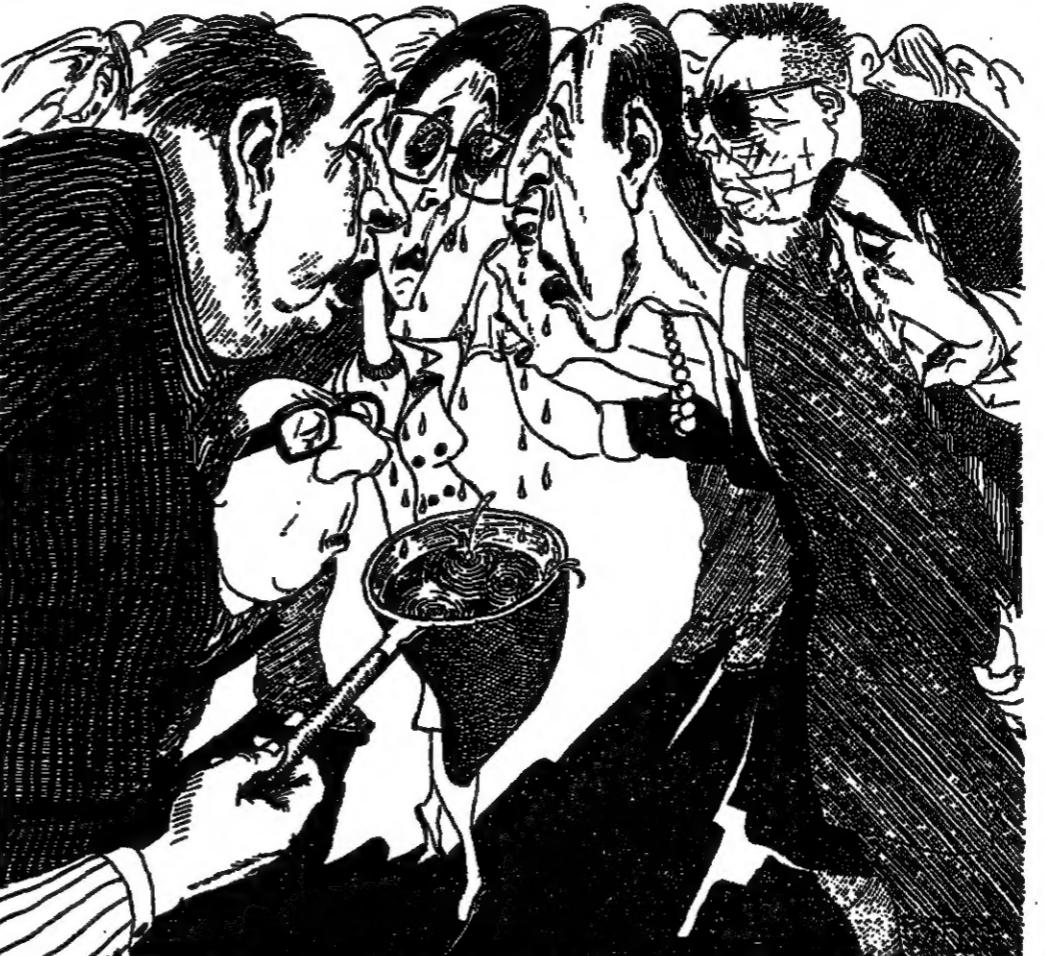
In recent years the British have not had a tradition of regular giving. However loath the Government may be to make anything compulsory, it should think again about the whole charitable scene, and realize that for charities to function properly, a quite different attitude to charitable giving must prevail.

Philanthropy has to be encouraged and admired. It must also become part of our culture. There is no point in exhorting people to give without offering advantages to the givers. Covenant schemes, by which charities receive the entire sum given, free of income tax, are only the beginning, as is payroll giving.

This would have distinct advantages. Taxpayers would for the first time be directly able to choose where at least part of their taxes goes. They could even choose not to direct their 1 per cent to charities, in which case it would go into normal tax re-

venues. But most people would give it to charity, and they would be able to specify which one. Any registered charity would be eligible to benefit, and the money could be distributed by the Charities Aid Foundation Grants Committee, in the way that money is distributed from the sale of the Post Office's Christmas stamps.

Meanwhile, the Charities Aid Foundation would be able to make a small handling charge for the service. This would be slightly more than cost-covering, to enable it to help those charities which are less popular



with the public, and are in consequence desperately needy.

Some may argue that it goes against the spirit of charity to make it compulsory, but many religions have a legal entitlement to, say, 10 per cent or 2.5 per cent of income. The tithe for the maintenance of the Temple in the Biblical period and for the church in later Europe was not given voluntarily and received by the church.

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Meanwhile, the Charities Aid Foundation would be able to make a small handling charge for the service. This would be slightly more than cost-covering, to enable it to help those charities which are less popular

public, as well as for the charities. The educational force of such a measure should not be underrated. Even if only a relatively small amount of individual income were taken up in this way, the principle would be established that giving is everybody's business, and that it is a normal part of living in a society like ours. It would make everyone realize that, whatever provision is made by the welfare state, a great deal of support and answering of need takes place through the voluntary and charitable sectors, often without central or local government grants.

Many companies have accepted this argument. The Per Cent Club consists of 268 national companies who give to charity either 0.5 per cent of their UK pre-tax profits or 1 per cent of their dividends. The trend is growing, with local Per Cent Clubs being established in Sheffield and the north-east. Companies do this for a variety of reasons, including the wish to set an example. They will not want to see this enforced by law. They would rather it were voluntary.

But if companies are beginning to learn that this is the right way to behave, individuals are slow to follow. Although it may seem authoritarian, a charity tax should be introduced as an improvement for the 1990s.

One per cent on top of basic rate tax would realize about £1.5 billion, and even if some people were to decide that this would be their only contribution, it would still mean vastly increased revenue for the charities, because it would bring in the 40 per cent of low givers. Far more people would thus be drawn into the web of giving. The charities would benefit, and so would society at large.

Rabbi Neuberger is visiting fellow at the King's Fund Institute.

value added tax. Ironically, these would require a skilled new bureaucracy.

Company tax also needs reform. East European countries almost all levy taxes on turnover, eliminating the incentive to increase productivity: taxes should be levied instead on profit. But accounting skills are mostly rudimentary. At every turn the desire to move from one system to another is handicapped by lack of the infrastructure to service the new system.

The IMF has discussed all these issues, along with the harsh question of public spending, with the Polish and Hungarian governments. Poland has agreed to make deep cuts in spending and to exert firm control over monetary expansion by raising real interest rates. Establishing the right macro-economic framework and providing capital resources are prerequisites of success in converting command economies into market economies, but they are not enough in themselves. The hard work is still to come. Without economic freedom, political freedom may prove a frail flower.

Upheaval again on the path to free markets

Rodney Lord on East Europe's problems in shaking off state control

Poland's signature of a letter of intent to the International Monetary Fund just before Christmas is the signal for a shower of gold to descend from all points of the compass. Apart from the \$725 million of bridging finance which the agreement will bring from the IMF, at least \$1 billion of longer-term development loans will be made available by the World Bank, another \$1 billion may come from the EC's proposed stabilization fund, and official debts will be re-scheduled by the Western government lenders in the "Paris Club".

The money will certainly come in handy. Poland is effectively bankrupt. While the Poles have been careful to pay the interest on commercial bank loans more or less on time, the country has over many years frequently defaulted on its official debts. An infusion of hard currency will also help to tackle inflation, which is currently running at around 700 per cent (nobody is sure of the precise

figure, and at this level perhaps it does not matter).

Yet the money is no more than an emergency transfusion. It will maintain economic life, but it will not bring economic health. That is a far more difficult operation. No one has ever converted a command economy into a market economy before. To do so requires the ability to return to first principles, and great political and managerial sophistication.

At its simplest, the problem facing all East European economies is the same: to abolish state control by the state, and to allow prices to be determined by supply and demand. This is true not only in the market for goods and services, but also in the labour market (where wages must be allowed to vary), in the foreign exchange market (where there must be currency convertibility) and in the capital market (where the allocation of capital by bureaucrats must be superseded by commercial lending decisions at varying interest rates).

After a generation or more of economic activity directed by the party, these notions are barely understood in most East European countries. Although Hungary has advanced furthest along the road towards liberalization, basic foods, fuel and clothing are still heavily subsidized. A bus ride of up to 10 miles in Budapest costs 5 forints, which is about 5p.

In the financial sector, some progress has been made. In the past, investment funds to industry were allocated by the National Bank in line with the latest economic plan. Now commercial banks compete for the business and are moving towards a more flexible interest rate structure to reflect varying risk. In principle, the National Bank now acts more like a Western-style central bank, but the financial bureaucracy is not finding it easy to adjust to new ways, and there is considerable tension between the two tiers.

One of the most difficult concepts to embrace is bank-

ruptcy. Hungarian law now makes provision for the banks to wind up companies, but they do not yet do so. The idea that enterprises can fail and employees be thrown out of work is politically uncomfortable, and suggests the need for a social security system to provide support which has previously come through the payroll of state-controlled industry.

In Poland, where the new Solidarity government has to swallow the medicine quickly so that recovery can begin, prices have rapidly been de-controlled. Pricing by price has in many instances already replaced rationing by queue.

Poland already has a private sector in which the wage controls and overmanning that pervade the state sector can be avoided. In a few cases, state enterprises have made the system look foolish by contracting out nearly all their functions to reconstituted private companies, leaving only a few watchmen to form the workers' council of the

state-run shell. But generally, wage structures are inflexible and overmanning is endemic, and there is virtually no market in skills.

The answer, the government believes, is privatization. Krzysztof Lis has been appointed Plenipotentiary for Ownership Changes, and is preparing an extensive programme of public flotations on the still-to-be-established stock exchange. But the uncertainties facing investors make doubts over the flotation of, say, British Gas look trifling. Investors are uncertain not only about the application of the regulatory regime, but about the whole economic system.

The IMF has discussed all these issues, along with the harsh question of public spending, with the Polish and Hungarian governments. Poland has agreed to make deep cuts in spending and to exert firm control over monetary expansion by raising real interest rates. Establishing the right macro-economic framework and providing capital resources are prerequisites of success in converting command economies into market economies, but they are not enough in themselves. The hard work is still to come. Without economic freedom, political freedom may prove a frail flower.

Meanwhile, the Charities Aid Foundation would be able to make a small handling charge for the service. This would be slightly more than cost-covering, to enable it to help those charities which are less popular

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1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

THE WEIZMAN AFFAIR

The latest quarrel in Israel's coalition Government has been patched up by the usual compromise. It has, however, resurrected a wider issue which will not be so easily resolved.

Crisis threatened the left-right coalition on Sunday when Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's Prime Minister, sacked Mr Ezer Weizman, his Science Minister. The charge was that Mr Weizman, a hawk turned dove, had been talking to Israel's enemy, the Palestine Liberation Organization. All contact with the detested PLO, still seen in Jerusalem as a terrorist organization, was forbidden by law in 1986.

President Herzog offered to intervene as a left/right fissure reopened in the Government. But Mr Weizman himself proffered a deal. He kept his science portfolio in the Government, but resigned from the policy-making inner Cabinet.

Against the constantly shifting Middle-Eastern backdrop, the incident itself will probably soon be forgotten. By last night, Government officials in Jerusalem were more concerned with the report from Amnesty International which is critical of Israel's response to the *intifada*.

The episode alone the less bears examination at several levels. In terms of domestic politics, for example, it has strengthened Mr Shamir's own position. He has demonstrated his authority as Prime Minister on what is an important point of principle.

While backing his Cabinet colleague Mr Weizman, the Labour Party's support was constrained. To have opted out of the coalition Government might have implied that the party was in favour of developing contacts with the PLO. Yet not only is Labour officially against this – Israel's electorate would seem to be so, too.

Opinion polls conducted since the weekend have suggested that Israelis were fairly evenly divided on whether Mr Weizman should be sacked. As many as 70 per cent, however, opposed his contacts with the PLO. The terrorist attack on a Jerusalem-Tel Aviv bus last summer, in which 16 Israelis died, hardened attitudes throughout the country. To bring down the coalition at such a time and on

such an issue would have led the Labour Party towards an election which it would assuredly have lost.

As it is, Mr Shamir has prompted Labour leaders like Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin to re-state their opposition to the idea of treating with the PLO. This might not mean a change in their position. But by humiliating the maverick Mr Weizman, exposing the current frailty of his friends and demonstrating the underlying unity of the Government (on this issue, at any rate), he has sent a powerful signal across the Atlantic.

The Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers are due to have talks in Washington this month with Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State. Near the top of the agenda when they meet will be the question of Palestinian representation in any discussions over the next stage of the peace process.

Mr Baker's five-point formula to help pave the way for elections in the occupied territories has itself caused divisions in Israel's Cabinet. While Labour has been in favour of going along with it, Mr Shamir and his Likud colleagues have been sceptical, and have not concealed their suspicions of indirect PLO involvement. Mr Shamir has now managed to underline his message that the PLO are not even on the short list.

This leaves the issue of Palestinian representation more difficult than ever. Israel is placing its faith in the emergence of a new Arab leadership on the West Bank. But it is difficult to envisage the emergence of any leaders who do not have the blessing of the PLO. Perhaps Jerusalem would settle for representatives who, while acceptable to Mr Yassir Arafat, would not feel beholden to him – and would not turn the West Bank and Gaza into more of a PLO enclave than they already are.

There are those who believe that at some stage Israel will have to accept some degree of PLO involvement, however indirect. The effect of the Weizman affair, however, must be to defer that prospect *sine die*. It has ruled out any imminent chance of compromise on one of the bigger obstacles to peace. In that respect, its impact will be a lasting one.

HOME AND DRIER

Today's statistics on drink and driving over the Christmas and new year holiday period are likely to provide further evidence that a substantial change in public attitude and behaviour has taken place in the past five or 10 years. It is a remarkable transformation, and many innocent people must have escaped death or serious injury as a result of it. It would be a great mistake, however, to conclude that the problem is therefore virtually solved. On the contrary new measures are justified to ensure that the trend continues in future years.

The evidence of a significant change in public attitude is corroborated by recent surveys which show a high degree of public approval for the introduction of random testing. Most chief police officers favour it; so does Mr Robert Atkins, the Minister for Roads and Traffic. There are some habitual drinking drivers who will never be persuaded to change their ways by appeals to conscience or the threat of public shame. For them, the introduction of random testing is likely to be the only effective deterrent. There is still time to put the legislation on the statute book by next Christmas, and the Government would do well to prepare it forthwith.

To a certain extent the proportion of motorists found by police roadside tests to be above the limit is a measure not of the degree to which motorists drink and drive but of the skill of the police at spotting them on the road once they have done so. An experienced traffic patrolman will have an expert's intuition for the subtle hesitations and irregularities which indicate the influence of drink on driving performance. The better he is at it, the higher will be his score, measured as the ratio of those over the limit to the total of those he has stopped and tested.

The national statistics are highly sensitive to police operational policy, therefore, and could even mask underlying trends of a different sort. They cannot be taken by themselves as scientific proof of a change in public behaviour. For instance any move in the direction of random breath testing, such as the device

recently employed by some police forces of stopping vehicles for mechanical tests while looking out for the slightest indications of drink, will make the statistics even more difficult to interpret.

Truly random testing, which is still just outside the scope of police powers at present, would also produce a statistical distortion, for random testing would not eliminate the need for targeting and the ratio of those stopped to those found to be at fault would still reflect targeting policy. The proportion of randomly tested motorists over the limit on a Saturday afternoon will inevitably be different from the proportion eight hours later.

At present police tactics on roadside breath-testing vary from region to region: there are some who try to maximize their visible impact as a sophisticated exercise in public education; some who merely seek, in the spirit of more traditional policing, to catch as many delinquent drink-drivers as possible. The power to conduct random tests would have a different effect on the statistics in each case.

It would certainly enhance the public education approach. But it must be less certain that existing police powers, properly used, really do allow many cases to slip through the net. It is virtually unheard of for a motorist to plead successfully in court that though he was found to be above the limit, the result of the test ought to be set aside because he had given five stones in his pouch, but most solicitors have no such ammunition. Instead they have their bank managers on their backs!

Yours faithfully,
GODFREY C. HONNYWILL,
Buss Merton (Solicitors),
The Priory,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.

December 22.

School budgets

From Mr G. R. Savory

Sir, You report (December 28) concern that under the scheme for the local management of schools if budgets for teaching wages are set at average rather than real costs some teachers' jobs will be put at risk.

The system would have further disadvantages: even where staffing levels were not reduced older staff would mean less money for other things (e.g. books, sport, materials for science and technology); appointments committees might not select the best candidate for a post but prefer instead one who would cost less; and teachers would find increasing difficulty in moving jobs as they moved up the salary scale.

Yours faithfully,
G. R. SAVORY (Chairman of Governors, Brixton Church of England Primary School),
36 The Crescent,
Brixton,
Plymouth, Devon.

December 23.

Littered software

From Mr Bob Cooper

Sir, We hear much of the transgressions in town and village of the litter louts. In the countryside, it is the consumer of soft drinks – the cola colt – who is the villain. In parts of the Lake District it is not just daftfools that "stretch in never-ending line" but Coke tins rattling and rusting in the breeze. Could not the manufacturers divert a fraction of their astronomical promotion budgets to persuade their customers to behave in a more socially responsible manner?

Yours sincerely,
BOB COOPER,
Orchard Cottage,
Prize,
Kendal, Cumbria.

Help for cathedrals

From Mr Andrew Anderson

Sir, Your correspondent (December 30) may well be right that the care of cathedrals should be entrusted to local authorities, but it is a step it would be unwise to take until the Government of these architecturally still well-stocked islands is appointed by a voting system proportionally representative of the wishes of the electorate. The last thing a medieval cathedral wants are political as well as structural ups and downs.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW ANDERSON
(Surveyor to the Fabric of St Albans Cathedral),
1 The Close,
Norwich, Norfolk.

Children's needs

From Mrs Sarah Douglas-Pennant

Sir, In the current rush by employers and career-minded women to obtain even more extensive childcare facilities outside the home the little thought seems to be given to the real needs of the children.

The focus is all on the right of the mother to get unencumbered to the workplace. Yet does the child not also have the right to be brought up by his own mother, to enjoy the security of family life and the attention of his own parents?

Making sure the children's needs have been identified and attended to must surely be the first consideration in any debate on the role of women with dependent children.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH DOUGLAS-PENNANT,
Tisbury House, Tisbury,
Wiltshire.

Conveyancing services

From the Director-General of the Building Societies Association

Sir, Mr Ewart Evans, Chairman of the Society of Licensed Conveyancers (December 29), suggests that without breaching restrictions on cross-subsidisation, banks, building societies and estate agents could not provide a cheaper conveyancing service without compromising consumer protection.

The Agreement, however well justified as long-term policy, was traumatically offensive to unionists. It was also alarming to the IRA, who correctly recognized that it signalled an agreement between Britain and Ireland that what they held in common – a long-term interest in the suffocation of the IRA – was more important than any short-term differences. If yesterday's death forms part of a still smaller total of deaths for the year just begun, it may show that the slow decline of violence is resuming.

Building societies, banks and other institutions have no wish to

cross-subsidise conveyancing, and there is no possible commercial advantage to them in so doing. However, they wish to have power to provide a conveyancing service because they believe that many consumers would prefer to obtain a package of house-buying services rather than have to use a number of different organisations.

Mr Ewart Evans rightly points out that the creation of licensed conveyancers had the effect of reducing the price of domestic conveyancing services. He has no right to assume that the market mechanism stops there and that further competition, in the form of qualified solicitors and licensed conveyancers working directly for lending institutions, will not further improve the service to the consumer.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. BOLEAT,
Director-General,
The Building Societies Association,
3 Savile Row, W1.

The report that you have highlighted demonstrates the feasibility of single studies and a much larger survey of patients from all over the country must be carried out before meaningful conclusions can be drawn.

Yours faithfully,
P. BOWEN-SIMPSON
(Consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist).

J. THOMAS (Consultant in community medicine),

Singleton Hospital,
Swansea, West Glamorgan.

مكتباً من الأصل

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Slow wheels of justice

From Mr Godfrey C. Honnywill

Sir, The Government claims that it gives high priority to maintaining law and order and upholding the high standard of British justice, but these claims are not consistent with its actions. By under-funding the whole legal system and exposing the profession to unequal commercial competition the Government is seriously undermining justice.

Both criminal and civil courts are subject to delays which 10 years ago were unthinkable, e.g. a letter written to Bromley County Court will almost certainly not be

read for two months and may not be answered until a typist is available several weeks later still.

In criminal cases, trials take place years after the event, while wrongly accused people suffer and the memories of witnesses inevitably deteriorate. Justice delayed is justice denied.

Lawyers frequently have to wait 12 months or more to be paid legal aid fees due to them. Here shortage of staff to assess bills, itself due to under-funding, helps delay payments – to the obvious advantage of the Treasury and disadvantage of the legal profession. While the Department of Trade and Industry encourages large companies to pay small ones promptly, why doesn't the Government pay the profession accordingly?

Provincial solicitors are being seriously weakened by the malaise in domestic conveyancing, brought about by high interest rates and the reaction to the Government's admitted mismanagement of the property market in March/July, 1988.

I understand some solicitors who responded to the Lord Chancellor's request for bigger and more specialized firms are now among those suffering most. The Law Society is receiving a steady stream of requests from members in southern England for advice about what to do with their clients.

For both politicians and their supporters, reactionary fervour seems to be the order of the day. What peculiar bedfellows they make; and what a contrast to the thriving new, open-minded embrace of political and economic reality in eastern central Europe in recent months. Maybe we have as much to learn from the emerging democracies as they have to teach us in this new year.

Yours truly,

ALFRED SHERMAN,

10 Gerald Road, SW1.

December 29.

and religious mob violence which earlier generations of Englishmen would have known only from books or films of backward countries.

The way in which this country is being maneuvered into taking hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong Chinese – the numbers will grow as initial resistance is overcome – thanks to lobbying by a wealthy influential group with City connections and ample funds, symbolise for millions of people what is being done to this country.

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COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 2: Mrs Robert de Pass has succeeded the Hon. Mary Morris as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE
January 2: Mrs Lady Fermoy, has succeeded the Lady Angela Greville as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Birthdays today

Brigadier Sir John Anstey, former president, National Savings Committee, 83; Mr David Atherton, conductor, 46; Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, 52; Mr John Bamberger, former principal, Linacre College, Oxford, 69; Mr Michael Barratt, broadcaster, 62; Mr Victor Borge, pianist and comedian, 81; Sir Robin Butler, Secretary of the Cabinet, 52; Professor Sir Bryan Carsberg, director-general, OFTEL, 51; Lord Colyton, 88; Mr Frank Cotton, rugby player, 42; Sir Alastair Fothergill, former president, Court of Appeal, Gibraltar, 82; Mr Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, 65; Sir Roy Harding, education consultant, 66; Sir Eritton Keville, former chairman, General Council of British Shipping, 89; Miss Anya Linden, ballerina, 57; Sir Carol Mather, former MP, 71; Mr Siegmund Nissel, former member, Amadeus Quartet, 68; Sir John Riddell, royal equerry, 56; Mr R.R. Seddon, architect, 61; Mr John Trew, actor, 48; Mr David Vines, sports commentator, 54; Professor T.S. Willan, economic historian, 80.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Pietro Antonio Mengastino, poet, Rome, 1698; Robert Whitshead, brewer, Bolton-le-Moors, Lancs, 1823; Clement Attlee, 1st Earl Attlee, prime minister 1945-51, London, 1983; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, London, 1958; James Bridie, pseudonym of Osborne Mavor, dramatist, Glasgow, 1888; J.R.R. Tolkien, scholar and writer, Bloemfontein, S Africa, 1892.

DEATHS: Josiah Wedgwood, potter, Burslem, Staffs, 1759; 'Rachel' (Elis Feit), actress, Cannes, 1858; William Harrison Ainsworth, historical novelist, Reigate, Surrey, 1882; James Elroy Flecker, poet, Davos, Switzerland, 1915; William Joyce, 'Lord Haw-Haw', traitor, executed, London, 1946; Edwin Muir, writer, Cambridge, 1939.

Latest wills

Last estates include (net, before tax paid): Mr Michael Joseph Orgill Massey, of Barnet Green, Worcestershire, £418,587. Miss Mary Parmenter, of Bournemouth, Dorset, £233,559. Mr Albert Edward Preese, of Newport, Gwent, £230,068. Mr Lionel Hubert Bertram Ralph, of Birmingham, 500,517. Mr James Graham Belsey, of Sevenoaks, Kent, £266,596. Mrs Margaret Elizabeth Gresham, of Haslemere, Surrey, £392,556.

Sir Charles Smith Ryland

A Service of Thanksgiving for Sir Charles Smith-Ryland, KCVO, KSG, JP, will be held in Coventry Cathedral on Wednesday, January 31, at 12 noon. Those wishing to attend should please contact the Clerk of the Lieutenant, PO Box 9, Silver Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RA. Tel: (0926) 412326. The 9.40 train from Euston to Coventry will be met.

Gala Gourmet Dinner

The second Gourmet Dinner in aid of the NSPCC and Birthright featuring wines of The Groupe-ment Des Premiers Grands Crus Classes de Saint-Emilion will take place at The Savoy, on January 22, 1990. Tickets, priced £175 are available from the NSPCC, tel 405 3344.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.J.N.G. Butler-Sloss and Miss S.J. Sainsbury

The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Mr Justice and Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, of The Temple, London, and Sarah, daughter of Lord and Lady Sainsbury of Preston Candover.

Mr D.H. Barber and Miss C.J. Fairchild

The engagement is announced between David Hilary, son of Mr and Mrs Hilary Barber, of St Briavels, Gloucestershire, and Carol Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Stanley Fairchild, of Hong Kong, and Chelsea, London.

Mr M.A.L. Birley and Miss A.J. Blawett

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mrs R.A. Birley, of Knutsford, Cheshire, and the late Mr T.L. Birley, of Alnwick, formerly daughter of Mr E.M. Blawett, of Roehampton, London, and the late Major General R.S. Blawett.

Mr L.J.M. Burt and Miss M.J. Thompson

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Mr H.E. Coates and Miss C.C. Blackley

The engagement is announced between Robin Coates, of West Rason, Lincolnshire, and Cecily Blackley, nee Stuart-Prince, of Belvoir Park, London.

Mr N.J.F. Gay and Miss E.S. Macready Sellars

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs Keith Gay, of Berkhamsted, Herts, and Serena, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter M. Sellars, of Enfield, Middlesex.

Mr P.A. Goodwin and Miss M.K.H. Burgess

The engagement is announced between Peter Anthony, only son of Mr C. Goodwin, of Sleaford, Lincolnshire, and Mrs E. Turner, of Shodsbury, Shropshire, and Kathryn Helen, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Burgess, of North Ferriby, East Yorkshire.

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SCIENCE REPORT

Pulsars puzzle experts

Giant stars often end their lives by exploding as supernovae, and tiny, dense neutron stars may be all that are left. Neutron stars that rotate on their axes are called pulsars, short for "pulsating stars".

They are highly magnetized, and with every rotation broadcast intense beams of radiation across space. The intervals between successive pulses of radiation reveal how fast the pulsar is spinning.

Pulsars have made much scientific news over the past year. One pulsar, called 1957+20, has helped to explain much about pulsars. But the story of the pulsar in the remnant of 1957's supernova (SN1957A) in the Large Magellanic Cloud, a galaxy next door to our own, only seems to become more puzzling. Both pulsars have rotation periods measurable in milliseconds.

It is hard to work out how a pulsar gets the energy to support this spin rate, but the discovery of 1957+20 in May, 1988, (*Nature*, vol. 333, pp. 237-239) furnished a new clue. 1957+20 is part of a two-star system, and further work suggested that as the pulsar rotated, its radiation strips material from the other star in the system.

This material falls towards the pulsar, orbiting it as a disk

Mr T.G. Kelly and Miss A.T. James

The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Kelly, of Bishopsteignton, Devon, and Tamsin, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Fontes, of Wraybury and Mrs Christopher Clarke, of Bridgers' Cottage, Hathersage, Derbyshire, Derbyshire.

Mr L.H.H. Kinsman and Miss Christine Odell-Selby

The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Henry Ivor Kinsman, of 46 Marasham Court, Westminster, and the late Mrs Daphne Kinsman, and Christina Gabrielle, daughter of Prince and Princess Paul Odeacalchi, of Lake House, Pitmead Lane, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Mr R.P. Merrifield and Miss E.S. Tigar

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Merrifield, of Cobham, Surrey, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Tigar, of Hemswide, Somerset.

Mr P.A.A. Miles and Miss J.B.M. Thwaites

The engagement is announced between Paul, eldest son of Mr and Mrs S.J. Mills, of Wilstone, Hertfordshire, and Jennie, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.P. Thwaites, of Barford, Warwick.

Mr P.A. Robert-Tillett and Miss E.A. Palmer

The engagement is announced between Philip, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Tillett, of Totteridge, North London, and Kate, younger daughter of His Honour Judge and Mrs Henry Palmer, of Chiswick, West London.

Mr C.A. Sampson and Miss M.A. Hollis

The engagement is announced between Charles Arthur, of Westleigh, Bideford, Devon, only son of the late Mr and Mrs Charles Sampson of Anne, of Totteridge, North London, and Sian, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs William Johnson of Lympstone, Devon.

Mr N.C. Sanders and Miss M.S. Dene

The engagement is announced between Neal, younger son of Mrs Edna Sanders and the late Mr Allen Sanders, of Aylsham, Norfolk, and Michelle, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David White, of Edwalton, Nottingham.

Mr P.A. Goodwin and Miss M.K.H. Burgess

The engagement is announced between Peter Anthony, only son of Mr C. Goodwin, of Sleaford, Lincolnshire, and Mrs E. Turner, of Shodsbury, Shropshire, and Kathryn Helen, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Burgess, of North Ferriby, East Yorkshire.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

لَا حَمْدَ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

13

In Jesus all the building stones
framed together growth
unto an holy temple in the
Earth. Ephesians 2:21

BIRTHS

ADAMS - On March 14th 1989, at Rapton, Virginia, to
Kathy (née Billings) and
Timothy, a daughter, Cailee
Ann. Condolences to Devon
New year greetings from
Glenville & Sons.

BALDWIN - On December
22nd 1989, at Michele und
Dietrich, a son, a daughter,
Holly Michaela, and a
brother, Jamie. Thanks to all staff
of Funtury Hospital.

BOSMAN - On December 30th
1989 to Lester and Michael,
a son, a daughter, and a
brother, Frank, at Dulwich Hospital.

BUTSON - On December 31st
1989 to Mary (née Crowley)
and Andrew, a daughter,
Caitlin Elizabeth.

BULL - On December 30th to
Arieke (née Melton) and
Suzanne, a son William
Jillian Freeland.

BURKE - On December 31st,
at home, in memory of
John (née Burgess) and Andrew,
a daughter, Sarah Anne, a
sister for John and Claire.

CABE - On December 30th
1989 to John and Jeremy,
a son, a daughter, and a
brother, Elizabeth.

CHESTER - On December 30th
1989 to Christopher and
Elizabeth, a son, a daughter,
Frances, a sister for
Alexander and Emily.

CIPPER - On December 27th to
John and Carol, a son, a
daughter, Charles, and a
brother, Simon, Mark,
Miriam and Peter.

CLEARY - On December 31st
1989 to Cassandra (née
and William), a son, Oliver
Oscar.

CLIFFORD - On December 16th
1989 to Adele (née Reay)
and James, a daughter, Jessica
Hase.

COOPER - On January 1st in
Wellington, New Zealand, to
Victoria and Richard, a son,
Oliver Julian Russell.

FAIR - On December 31st to
John (née Fairhurst) and
Henry, a son James.

GALE - On December 30th to
Danielle (née Smith) and
Timothy, a son Alexander,
a daughter, Elizabeth.

GILBERT - On December 30th
1989 to Rachel (née Adkins)
and Michael, a son, Cameron
George Adkins, a brother
for Michael.

GIBBONS - On January 1st, to
Carolyn (née Morris) and
Richard, a son, William
Matthew Peacock.

GILBERT - On January 1st, to
Gillian (née Gilligan) and
Alesander, a son, Lucy, a
daughter, Lucy, a sister for
James.

GLASS - On January 1st, to
John (née Glass) and
Margaret, a son, Richard.

GOODFELLOW - On January 1st,
to John (née Glass) and
Margaret, a son, Richard.

GRANT - On December 30th
1989 to John and John, a
boy, James Edward.

HARVEY - On January 1st,
to John (née Harvey) and
Philip, a daughter, Catherine
Elizabeth.

RAWLE - On December 30th
1989 to Stephen and Nigel, a
son, Mark Edward.

REED - On December 30th to
Stephen (née Reed) and
Howard, a daughter, Talié
Rachel, a sister for Jonathan.

SCOTT - On December 31st to
John (née Faulkner) and
Amanda, a daughter, Alice
Cecilia.

SIMMONS - On December 29th
1989 to Simon (née Lankster)
and Philip, a son, Sam
Palmer Oliver, a brother
for Luke.

STRANGE - On December 19th
1989, to Laura Apostol and
Howard, a daughter, Sophie
Perry.

TACK - On Christmas day
1989, to Valerie and
Michael, a daughter, Eleanor
Alice Louise, a half sister for
Laura.

THOMAS - On December 27th to
Bridget and Adrian, a
son Oliver Talbot, a brother
for Mattie.

WIGGINS - On December
31st to Monica (née Bruce)
and Stuart, a son Frederick
Stuart Nicholas.

GOLDEN
ANNIVERSARIES

WILKINSON-SWALE - On
January 3rd 1940, in Aden.
Philis to Margery.

JAN 3 ON THIS DAY 1883

DEATHS

BURTON - On January 1st
1989 at home Mary Ursula Aspin
of Sulgrave, near Barnbury.
Funeral service to be held at
Marsden.

CARLISLE - Lawrence
Church on Monday, January
2nd at 2.30pm. Family
flowers only but donations if
desired to National St. Law-
rence Church c/o J. and M.
Humphries, Albert Street,
Barnbury, Oxon.

BURTON - On December
31st 1989, Jennifer Florence
aged 30, late wife of Brian and
mother of Thomas. Funeral
service at St. Brigid's church,
Plymouth.

CARLISLE - On December
31st 1989, aged 25, Mary
Humphries, Albert Street,
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C

THE ARTS

A pushy woman at work

TELEVISION

Jasper Rees

This might appear to be an extravagant claim, but you could argue that, from David Niven to Ruby Wax is but a step.

The step in question is the Atlantic Ocean, which Niven seemed to make a career as the English ambassador to Hollywood. More recently, Wax took the same step in the other direction, making a career as a US ambassador to British television.

Having persuaded her to defect again, from Channel 4, the BBC have allowed Wax to build her own vehicle, which is roomy enough for her to be herself: garrulous, brash and fearlessly embarrassing in short, American. The format of *Hit and Run* (BBC 1) could not be simpler. The camera crew shows up at Wax's place first thing, she dashes upstairs to pack a suitcase, says her goodbyes to husband, baby and nanny, and careers out into the street, where she immediately begins the hunt for human-interest stories.

Accosting passing strangers, knocking on doors to solicit interviews, she intrudes and enquires indiscriminately. In other words, the 15 seconds of fame Wax has to offer is the sort the man and woman in the street ought to be very wary of accepting, as it involves divulging intimate sexual secrets, and "trash like that".

"Just give me something," she pleaded with one unforthcoming passer-by. "I am trying to make a documentary."

But the Wax way still gets results. In the first of the series, she traded insults with a surly taxi driver, barged into the drawing-rooms of a glamorously well-preserved but recusative society lady, nosed around a suburban yuppie colony, and fetched up at a Cyndi Lauper party.

Only Wax can do this, because she plumbs the depths other presenters cannot reach. The presenter now is meant to be reminded of Isabella Rossellini, whose squeaky-clean miracle-working show *Hit and Run* consciously spoofs.

To the cameramen who harried along in her wake, Wax barked, "Don't look at my behind: Anouk's behind is perfect." The behinds do not differ only in size: energetic Anouk's, jarringly tractored, is packed with niceass, warts and all; rose Ruby's, power-dressed in a career-girl short skirt, radiates uncompromising bitchiness.

Sous of the bars behinds at the yuppie colony, of course, said all sorts of other things, and an index of Wax's skill is that she known when to let those things speak for themselves. "I like to think I can play the field," said the especially round man who escorted her to the colony. Nothing needed to be said, and nothing was.

As for *Hit and Run*'s spontaneity, you can only take Wax at her word when she says it is authentic. It's just that, even when people think they are telling the truth, they may well not be. One woman who opened her front door to Wax recognized her at once. "I know you," she said politely. "My friend's got all your records."

Touché.

With two plays about to open in London, Howard Barker remains, as Jim Hiley discovers, an outsider among British playwrights

Theatre's one-man awkward squad

One of the British theatre's greatest assets is the output of a radical group of dramatists, now slipping into middle age with their radicalism exuberantly intact. Few younger playwrights look like emulating the early precociousness and continuing fecundity of Caryl Churchill, Howard Brenton, David Hare and their generation.

Among this redoubtable band, Howard Barker is a conspicuous oddball. Over 20 years, he has seen 40 plays produced, carving a niche for himself without ever enjoying the big box-office success that periodically befalls his comrades. In an era of populism and instant communication, he stands for ruminative abstraction. Against the tide of television-influenced miniaturism, Barker insists on propounding epic themes.

Managements treat Barker with caution, but directors and actors cherish his scorching poetics and haunting imagery. Few playwrights are better regarded within the profession. There are signs, too, of a kindling public warmth for theatre's one-man awkward squad.

Others might have abandoned a career which pays him less than the average industrial wage. But Barker maintains a prolific supply of new texts. He also finds time to articulate his vision of a drama which "honours" its audience with dense and disturbing fare. Last year he published a bracing manifesto, *Arguments for a Theatre* (John Calder).

Now Barker finds himself in the unlikely position of having two plays unveiled in London within days. After attracting capacity houses and enthusiastic reviews in Sheffield and Leicester, the Wrasse School — a company formed by actors expressly for the promotion of Barker's work — has brought his *Seven Lears* to the Royal Court. And Ian McDiarmid and Jonathan Kent inaugurate

their new regime at the Almeida with *Scenes From An Execution*, in which Glenda Jackson makes a rare appearance on the "fringe".

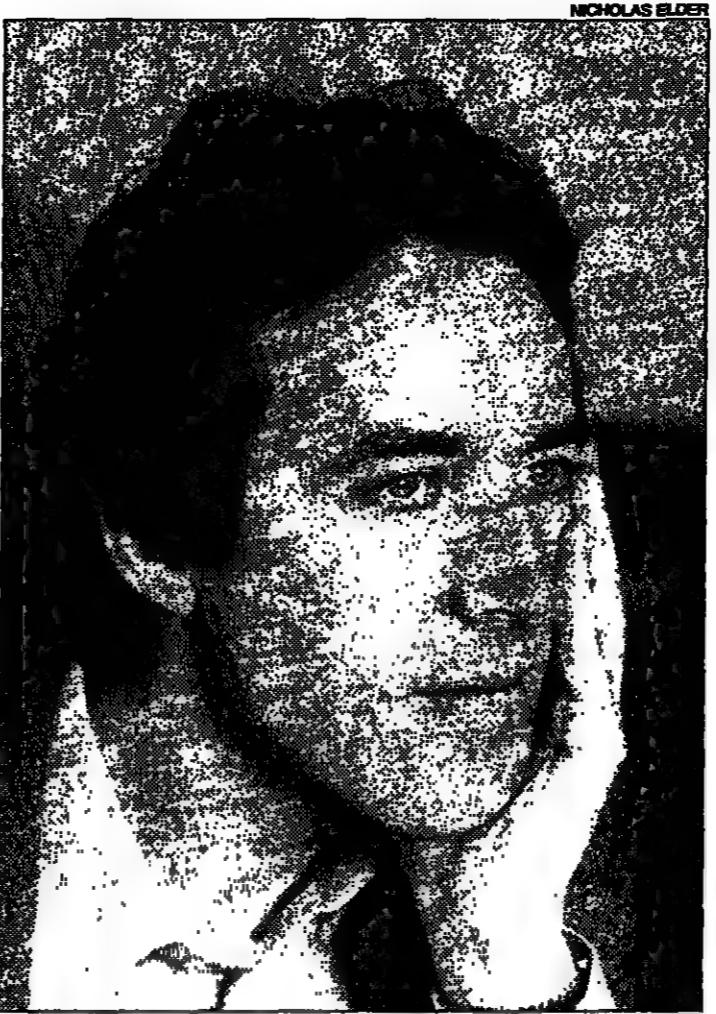
Seven Lears speculates on the tragic hero's early life, sketching a biography of his wife, whom Shakespeare mentions only fleetingly. Lear marries Clarissa after an affair with her mother. Then, in a series of disastrous battles, his wife proves a rather more effective general than he. Among other inventions, the Fool begins life as a well-placed courtier, and Gloucester is a beggar enabled by Lear on a whim. The play also charts the king's descent from an early preoccupation with goodness to what Barker calls the "boorishness" of Shakespeare's opening scenes.

"I am writing about the conflict between conscience and individual freedom," 43-year-old Barker says. His pronouncements are crisp to the point of pugnacity, but his manner is shy. "My Lear believes himself born wise, but he attempts to achieve madness. His quest takes no account of the public, which is suicidal for a king."

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Seven Lears will be preceded by a shorter piece, *Galago* (reviewed in these pages last month), in which a group of aristocrats "prepare for their fate" in the French revolution by enacting their own travesty of the Crucifixion. Both plays feature a chorus. By this device, Barker says he is seeking to "dump the naturalistic baggage" of modern drama. At the same time, he hopes to "subvert the chorus as a repository of truth".

"My characters often advance both an idea and its opposite. They seduce each other by their articulate ness. There isn't much subtlety in my work." In this, Barker discards a tradition which even "left-wing" dramatists tend to embrace. Much British acting and directing hinges on allusion



NICHOLAS ELDER
Barker: "Our world is highly contradictory, so art should reflect that"

and thoughts unspoken. By contrast, Barker is intent on lugging on to the stage the demons that other writers and directors confine to the wings.

In *Scenes From An Execution*, Glenda Jackson appears as Galacia, a fictional Venetian painter of the 16th century, commissioned by the authorities to commemorate their victory at the Battle of Lepanto. Far from

extolling military might, Galacia's mural is gory and shocking. Her dissidence lands her in jail, though by the end she has gained acceptance of a kind. Barker might be expected to lionize an artist at odds with her society, but his play is altogether more ambiguous. As he points out, "Galacia is relentlessly egocentric and flawed."

He has no qualms about the

mounting of *Scenes From An Execution* as a star vehicle. "I believe in big parts, especially for women. We have so many wonderful actresses who aren't being given contemporary roles. Glenda has a tremendous power of invention and linguistic manipulation. You can't do my work without that sort of energy."

Jackson played Galacia five years ago in the original radio version of the play, which won both the Sony Award and the Prix Italia — the only drama prize Barker values. At the time of the broadcast, Jackson testified approvingly: "Howard writes language you can actually taste."

A recent attempt to bring the play into the West End came to nothing, but Barker refuses to be fazed by his lack of commercial appeal. He claims that he was heartened by the response to *Seven Lears* on tour. He sensed a readiness among audiences to enjoy the sensuality of his language, without hunting for packages of meaning.

Here again, Barker confounds the image of the radical playwright. "Message" drama is one of his greatest bugbears. "My function is not to enlighten people, but to make them participate in an imaginative journey."

Even so, it has been suggested that both *Seven Lears* and *Scenes From An Execution* betray new accessibility in Barker's writing. He denies this strenuously — "the artist who makes himself accessible is self-destructive" — and he goes so far as to call himself an elitist. "But for the elite I'm interested in hunger for the imaginative life. It's not doing to do with class or education."

In the regions, he says, some people saw *Seven Lears* three times. "They would not have returned if the play had not been complex. Audiences should feel encouraged to come in and wade about in complexity. Our world is highly contradictory, so art should

reflect that. The artist's duty is to think hard, not shallowly."

In his latest work, Barker grapples with the perennial conflict between "the desire to submit and the desire to resist", which he believes has been reactivated by Mrs Thatcher and her global soulmates. "A characteristic of Thatcherism is a reversion to the idea of nature, irreparable in its forces. Poverty and sickness are seen as part of an order. Those who oppose the concept try to do so by discipline, control and uniformity, as for example in the East European regimes which are now crumbling."

Like several of his contemporaries, Barker once specialized in "state of England" plays, but overt politics no longer inspire him creatively. "I begin with a crisis rather than an intention. You have to be irresponsible, assaulting everything you cherish, when you start writing."

Despite this laudable commitment to the reinvention of his own talent, it is a surprise to hear Barker hymning theatrical classicism. "I respect traditional values, especially in terms of language. The complexities of poetry are destroyed by the media. In the theatre, spoken language can be defended and expanded."

He dismisses the idea that 1990 might be his breakthrough year. The same was said, he points out, of 1983, when three of his plays were presented to sell-out houses by the Royal Shakespeare Company. "I don't require a mass following. I want to address the intelligentsia. They're a very important class — just look at their role in Eastern Europe. When people talk about a breakthrough, I wonder — break through to what?"

• *Seven Lears* previews at the Royal Court (10-130, 1745) on Thursday, opens on Friday. *Scenes From An Execution* previews at the Almeida (01-359 4404) from Thursday and opens on Tuesday, January 9.



MARC ENGELAND
Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme: Jérôme Savary (left), André Burton

Panto à la mode, or Molière at the circus

THEATRE

Diane Hill

Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme
Chairoll, Paris

Jérôme Savary's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* is the best of British pantomime at its most radically French. Although he is now artistic director of the Chairoll — France's most respected national theatre after the Comédie Française — Savary's origins as founder of the avant-garde Grand Magic Circus theatre company make themselves felt when the occasion arises. (London theatre-goers had a chance to sample a much-diluted version of the Savary style, when he directed the ill-fated *Metropolis*.)

As both director of *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* and its star (he plays the would-be *gentilhomme*, Monsieur Jourdain), Savary takes Molière's classic, comic tale and outrageously tailors it to fit his own theatrical excesses. Molière's scenario and dialogue are intact, but the rest is pure Magic Circus.

Savary's Jourdain sports a floor-length red wig and more frills and flourishes than Dame Edna Everage. The extrovert Savary is no actor, but a showman without parallel, down to the tip of Jourdain's fat cigar. François

Borysine's mincing Dance Master (fetching in sugar-pink satin) and André Burton's meatily-methed Music Master squabble like a couple of Ugly Sisters. The panto metaphor continues with Valérie Mairesse's portrayal of Lacile as a wayward Cinders contriving to have a ball with Clémentine (Stephane Danseur), no Prince Charming, but a fainéant commoner who thus gets the thumbs-down from Lacile's social-climbing papa, Jourdain. It becomes a mixed metaphor with the arrival of Captain Hook in a high-speed wheelchair, masquerading as Molière's satirical Fencing Master.

When Jourdain goes Turk, the show's high-kicking chorus line goes topless. The musical interludes by Lully, Molière's favourite musical collaborator, are supplemented by some swinging sounds from Christian Ellision, who also plays a mean saxophone in the baroque jazz hand that occupies a corner of Michel Lelievre's cross-tent country mansion design. This latter survives being blasted by a bout of convincingly wet weather, being split up the middle by a volcanic Dante's Inferno and finally being bombarded by party poppers.

No-one actually says the French equivalent of "Oh no, there isn't" nor encourages cries of "He's behind you" from the audience, but such phrases hang in the air. Bruno Mansell is such a viciously despicable, scrounging aristocratic Dorante, he does indeed evoke hisses.

Standing out in the 40-strong cast — whose quick-changes provide the illusion of being a cast of hundreds — is Maxime Lombard as the Philosophy Master. He accompanies Molière's masterly oral send-up of the vowel sounds

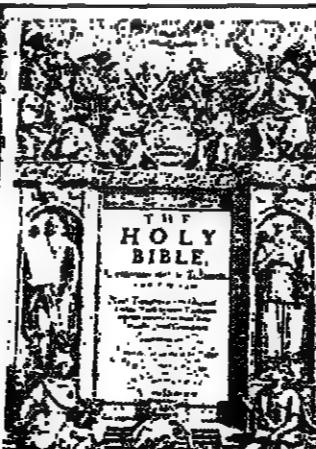
with a visual explanatory St Vitus dance that, in panto parlance, brings the house down.

Amidst this savoury Savary mix of Max-Wall-meets-the-Marx-Brethers, it is left to Nadine Alari as Madame Jourdain to carry the torch for Molière's underlying social message. While all about are losing everything except their sense of humour, Madame Jourdain keeps an impressive cool, trying with homespun good sense to prevent her husband from being relieved of dignity and respect along with his wallet. Folly wins out as Jourdain verbally makes his wife bite the dust of humiliation.

It is at this point that Molière fights back to the surface. Savary's Jourdain, for all his many *bonhomie*, is suddenly revealed to be a failed anti-hero, souring the pleasure of those in the audience who have reached the age of reason. There is the realization that a surfeit of custard pie obliterates too many of the play's ever-pertinent, clever, class-conscious contours.

Any book can be a best-seller, as long as it is a Good Book

Forget the modern British novelists and television tie-ins: the Bible is the biggest-selling book every year, as Joseph Connolly relates



Faces of a favourite: title page (above left) of a first edition of the Authorized Version, 1611; some of the faithful communication of the Bible's message.

The Prince of Wales may be pleased to learn that the modern texts hugely outstrip those of the more traditional versions. Whether people love the new texts remains debatable, but that they are more accessible (or, as it has been suggested, less off-putting) appears evident. That they sell in huge quantities is indisputable.

By far the most popular of all, despite its 1976 vintage, is the *The Good News Bible* published by Collins. (For every person who winces at the title, there are thousands who go out and buy it.) Runner-up is Hodder and Stoughton's *New International Version*.

All this is nothing, however, compared to the sales annually achieved by Britain's greatest source. As they explain: "Contrary to most parts of the world, we in English-speaking countries have a wealth of Bibles. The most modern are the result of the establishment of translation from ancient texts as a sophisticated and precise process, recent significant archaeological discoveries, and a commitment to

10,000 to 60,000 of each of these titles each year (with, surprisingly, The New Welsh Bible outselling the rest), but many more are sold through bookshops. Also still available and still popular is the *New English Bible* (OUP/CUP), although last September the presses of Oxford and Cambridge collaborated in publishing the Revised English Bible, which is the result of 15 years' scholarship and liaison with all of Britain's Christian churches as well as with the Bible Society.

"When the New English Bible was published in 1970," says OUP's Nigel Lynn, "it sold out on day one. It still sells 30-40,000 copies a year." One third of a million copies of the Revised English were printed this year (100,000 for the UK), and three months on, a 50,000 UK reprint has just been delivered. "The market is really huge," says Lynn.

And so it was inevitable, I suppose, that we should sooner or later be offered the "world's first hand-held electronic Bible". The sales literature for this King James version (available from Franklin Computers) goes on at length about it being "hand-held", as if unaware that this has been a feature of many Bibles for some considerable time. Armed with this miracle (so to speak), "you simply enter a key phrase or word and the unit's searching technology brings the relevant chapter and verse to the large, four-line, 214-character LCD screen. Type in 'valley', 'shadow' and 'death', for example, and the 23rd Psalm appears on the screen in seconds."

The men at Franklin are very eager to tell you more: "Enter 'lamp' and the thesaurus provides 'candle' as an option — which can in turn lead you to Matthew V:1 'neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel...'" At £295, Franklin sold out of their initial 200 and 250 more are selling well. All versions of the Bible sell well all of the time. Can the Bible Society offer an explanation? "Well," I was told disarmingly, "it is such a good book."

PHOTOSALES

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A fat-free future – fat chance?

select that. The artist's desire for the shallows. In his latest work, Becket is between the desire to succeed and the desire to resist. He believes he has been rejected by Thatcher and her Thatcherism. "A character of nature, irreparables. Poverty and success as part of an order, by opposing the concept of authority, as for example at European regimes are crumbling."

like several of his contemporaries, once a specialist "state of England", but over time, he has inspired him: creating with a crisis rather than a creation. You have to be a smash, assailing everything. Despite this laudable intent, it is a surprise to find him hymning the traditional. "I respect traditionalism in terms of the complexities of people destroyed by the media, size, spoken language, ended and expanded". He dismisses the idea that his breakfasts, same was said, he has 1983, when three of his presented to sell-out the Royal Shakespeare. "I don't" reduce it to a few. I want to advise diligencia. They're a decent class – just like us in Eastern Europe. I'd like to talk about a breakfast wonder – bread, tea, jam?"

Even Lear, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 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INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
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THEATRE
LONDON

* **'ALLO 'ALLO!**: Last chance to see the Queen Mum's favourite show on stage. Pitch your expectations low. Until Jan 22. Peacock Theatre, Argyle St, London W1 (01-587 7573). Tues-Fri: Oxford Circus, W1 (01-587 6869). Sat: Covent Garden, WC2 (01-587 2450). Sun: 2.30pm, 2.45pm and 5.30pm, 23.75-21.50.

* **ASPECTS OF LOVE**: Lloyd Webber musical based on a novel by Garnett Weston: many dull patches. Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry St, W1 (01-839 5872). Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm, £16-£25.

* **BARNABY AND THE OLD BOYS**: Jim Gascoine, Keith Baxter, Jennifer Hilary in Baxter's interesting though over-sentimental drama of Welsh practice. Welsford Theatre, Shrewsbury Ave, W1 (01-587 8867). Tues: Charing Cross, Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.30pm, mats Thurs 2.30pm and Sat 4.30pm, 23.80-21.50. (D)

* **BLOODY BROTHERS**: Willy Russell's semi-autobiographical musical: separated brothers destroyed by the English class system; Angers Richard as their mother. Albany Theatre, Marl's Lane, WC2 (01-587 1145). Tues-Fri 8.45pm, Sat 8pm, £16-£25.

* **FUNNY PECULIAR**: Peter Kennedy, Harry Crowson, Jay Johnson in offbeat comedy about a woman Kennedy about how to ginger up a stale man. Newell Theatre, Purdie Circle, EC4 (01-236 5668). Mon-Thurs 8pm, Fri and Sat 9pm, Mats Fri and Sat 8.30pm, 23.50-25.00.

* **HEMDA GABLER**: See picture, below. King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper St, N1 (01-223 1916). Tues: Highbury and Islington. Preview from tonight, 7.45-10.30pm, then 7.15-10.30pm, then Tues-Sat 7.45-10pm, Sun 5.30-8pm, 8.45pm and Sun 9-11.30pm. Tues, Wed and mats 27; Thurs Fri and Sat eve 23. Mat 6.45pm (Jan 6 10.15pm, 27).

* **JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL**: Peter O'Toole gives his best and funniest performance in years as the well-known man-about-Soho locked into his favourite pub overnight and meeting figures from his past. Prince of Wales Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (01-587 2869). Tues-Fri 8.30pm, Sat 8.45pm, Set 8.30pm, 23.80-21.50.

* **SHIRLEY VALENTINE**: Elizabeth Quinn (above), the hearing-impaired actress who won an Olivier Award for her performance as a deaf woman in *Children of a Lesser God* in 1983, leads Christopher Hampton's new adaptation of Dosea's *Heads Gabler*, which previews at the King's Head Theatre, Islington, from tonight and opens on January 10 (see listing). Playing Elbert Lovberg is Richard O'Callaghan, with whom Elizabeth Quinn has been living for the past nine years. Tony Anholt, Margery Mason, Timothy Bentinck, Lucinda Gane and Valerie Liley complete the cast, directed by Rena Down.

OUT OF TOWN

BRISTOL: Oliver Twiss: Poorhouse boy asks for more; she's a hunchie but finds happiness in new stage version by Jeremy Brock. Theatre Royal, King Street, 7.30pm, 24-27 (022 250250).

LIVERPOOL: **★ Great Expectations**: Cheryl Kennedy sings Miss Havisham, Robert Hancks and Tracy Childs play the troubled young lovers in musical *Playhouse*, Millennium Square, 7.30pm, £15-20 (015 708 5393).

FILMS

■ **Also on national releases**

■ **Advances booking possible**

■ **BACK TO THE FUTURE II** (D): Enjoyably antic but over-incompetent sequel to the 1985 hit, with Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd zipping to-and-fro through the time spectrum, directed as before by Robert Zemeckis (106 min).

■ **BEATLES** (D): Michael Jackson's Caped Crusader combats Jack Nicholson's oafishly snobbish evil Joker. Utterly diverting, but dramatically underhanded. Tim Burton directs (128 min).

■ **OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD**: Triple award-winning play by Timberlake Wertenbaker, set in New South Wales 200 years ago where a batch of convicts from the British Isles are put to work in a Gaol at Charing Cross Rd, EC1 (01-379 6107). Tues: Leicester Square, Mon-Fri 8-10.30pm, Sat 8.30pm, 8.45pm, and Sat 4.30pm, 23.80-21.50. (D)

■ **PRIDE**: Commanding performance by Shelly Harcoff as a sly, snobbish, autocratic college principal with principles you have to admire. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (01-457 3585). Tues-Fri 8.10pm, 10.30pm, mats Fri and Sat 8.15pm, 8.45pm, and Sat 4.30pm, 23.80-21.50.

■ **A SLICE OF SATURDAY NIGHT**: Preview of his show from the King's Head, with the same sound and feeling of a night out in 1954: clever songs by the Heather Brothers. Arts Theatre, Gt Newport St, WC1 (01-836 2123). Tues-Fri 8pm, Sat and Sun 8pm and 8.45pm, 27.50-21.50.

■ **LETHAL WEAPON 2** (D): Dynamic sequel to the 1987 hit, with Mel Gibson and Danny Glover as the psychopathic cop and side-kick respectively as before. Directed by Phillip Noyce (106 min).

■ **CRUSADE** (D): Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (Indy) (1989) hit. For his missing dad (Sean Connery), a satisfying blend of character and action directed by Steven Spielberg. Cannon Shropshire Avenue (01-695 5772). Progs 2.15, 6.15, 9.30, 11.45pm.

■ **INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE** (D): Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (Indy) (1989) hit. For his missing dad (Sean Connery), a satisfying blend of character and action directed by Steven Spielberg. Cannon Shropshire Avenue (01-695 5772). Progs 2.15, 6.15, 9.30, 11.45pm.

■ **LICENCE TO KILL** (D): Timothy Dalton returns as James Bond on a mission of vengeance in Latin America. A superior adventure directed by John Glen (113 min).

■ **THE CHASER** (D): The Chaser (01-223 3520). Progs 2.00 (Set 9.30), 4.10, 6.30, 8.50. (Closed Sun).

■ **SHIRLEY VALENTINE** (D): Warm-hearted film with the popular touch; Elizabeth Quinn (above), the hearing-impaired actress who won an Olivier Award for her performance as a deaf woman in *Children of a Lesser God* in 1983, leads Christopher Hampton's new adaptation of Dosea's *Heads Gabler*, which previews at the King's Head Theatre, Islington, from tonight and opens on January 10 (see listing). Playing Elbert Lovberg is Richard O'Callaghan, with whom Elizabeth Quinn has been living for the past nine years. Tony Anholt, Margery Mason, Timothy Bentinck, Lucinda Gane and Valerie Liley complete the cast, directed by Rena Down.



WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

MALTEA
(a) An ancient cement found all over the Mediterranean and Middle East, variously described as being made by mixing pitch and wax, or lime and sand, or other natural ingredients, from the Greek *malte*: "Natural malta is a kind of bitumen, whereas the Asatics plaster their walls."

ULTON
(a) Vengeance, a formal, legal retribution, from the Latin *ultio*: revenge. "To do good for evil is evil; and меetting ultio, a method taught from heaven to keep all smooth on Earth."

ATOK
(b) The native Indian name for a species of Peruvian skunk, also *atac*. *Atok*, however, from the Greek *atokos*, is the neuter part of certain polytheistic plauter's walls."

RAMPELZED
(a) Worn out, exhausted, thoroughly beaten, from Scottish dialect: origin much guessed at but ultimately obscure: *baras* = *the tapless, rampezzed hilt*.

ATOK
(b) The native Indian name for a species of Peruvian skunk, also *atac*. *Atok*, however, from the Greek *atokos*, is the neuter part of certain polytheistic plauter's walls."

STIRLING
(a) Worn out, exhausted, thoroughly beaten, from Scottish dialect: origin much guessed at but ultimately obscure: *baras* = *the tapless, rampezzed hilt*.

SHIRLEY VALENTINE
(a) *ASTORIAN*, *ASTORIA*, *ASTOR* = *the 5th floor* in the US, *the 6th floor* in Canada, *the 7th floor* in the UK, *the 8th floor* in Australia, *the 9th floor* in New Zealand, *the 10th floor* in Hong Kong, *the 11th floor* in Japan, *the 12th floor* in the Philippines, *the 13th floor* in Singapore, *the 14th floor* in Thailand, *the 15th floor* in South Korea, *the 16th floor* in South Africa, *the 17th floor* in South Africa, *the 18th floor* in South Africa, *the 19th floor* in South Africa, *the 20th floor* in South Africa, *the 21st floor* in South Africa, *the 22nd floor* in South Africa, *the 23rd floor* in South Africa, *the 24th floor* in South Africa, *the 25th floor* in South Africa, *the 26th floor* in South Africa, *the 27th floor* in South Africa, *the 28th floor* in South Africa, *the 29th floor* in South Africa, *the 30th floor* in South Africa, *the 31st floor* in South Africa, *the 32nd floor* in South Africa, *the 33rd floor* in South Africa, *the 34th floor* in 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Straight from the terraces

Peter Waymark

Struggling near the foot of the First Division, Millwall football club could probably do without the publicity of *Arrivederci Millwall* (BBC2, 9.25pm), even if it is set back in 1982. The timing is deliberate that being the year of both the World Cup in Spain and the Falklands war. Nick Perry's play links the two, as a bunch of Millwall fans happily take on board Agee-bashing xenophobia and one of the fans reacts to the death of his brother in the south Atlantic: *Arrivederci Millwall* was first performed on stage in 1985 and won Perry, a student of the National Film and Television School, the Samuel Beckett Award. Its transfer to television marks the start of a series of dramas made by directors new to the small screen, in this case Charles McDougal, another product of the NFTS. If the purpose of the piece was to highlight the mindless thuggery of some football supporters, it succeeds only too well. Perry's uninhibited script is so convincingly acted that the cast could well have been recruited straight from the terraces. *Arrivederci Millwall* throbs with a raw and bloody



A Millwall fan: brutally portrayed in Nick Perry's play (BBC2, 9.25pm)

energy, in which anything approaching conventional morality has been jettisoned. The law of the jungle has been transposed to south London, and any ordinary law-abiding member of the public had better watch out. The trouble is that Perry gives the thugs no motivation. Their actions are unexplained and therefore difficult to sympathise with. Perhaps he is trying to make the point that the roughing up by the Spanish police is not a second wrong that makes a right. I doubt whether many of the audience will see it that way.

● There can hardly be a greater contrast between *Arrivederci Millwall* and the placid, well-ordered world of John Thaw's *Inspector Morse* (ITV, 8.00pm).

Back for a new series of two-hour mysteries, the self-effacing Morse has become one of television's unlikely stars, attracting audiences of up to 15 million people. Perhaps the public appreciates a policeman who is not only honest but cultured enough to listen to classical music and a police series that eschews car chases and football fan violence. Tonight's offering, involving skeletons in an Oxford cupboard, co-stars Cheryl Campbell who has been away from the television screen for far too long.

BBC1

6.00 *Ceefax*
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Laurie Mayer and Nicholas Witchell with regular news headlines, analysis and interviews, business news, sport, regional news, travel and weather, and a review of the daily newspapers by Paul Callan. 6.35 *Regional news and weather* followed by *Children's BBC*, presented by Lisa Jones and Alan Peter, beginning with *Jim and the Jet Set* (r) 7.15 *The Charlie Bremner Show* and *Topshop Skirt* 8.30 *Fame and Fortune*. Episode five of the six-part Australian drama starring Kylie Minogue, about the struggle to make dreams come true

10.00 *News and weather* followed by *Why Don't You ... ? Entertaining Ideas* for young people with time on their hands 10.30 *Playdays*, with Elthine Harrington and Ian Lauchan (r) 10.35 *Run to Eleven*. Ian Cuthbertson with a reading of *Great Expectations*. Grahame has a class of prodigies to imagine what life will be like in the year 2050 11.30 *Paddies Up*. Host of the international football event from Llangollen, North Wales

12.00 *News and weather* followed by *MacGyver: The Human Factor*. Mac is charged with the task of testing a unique security system which uses robots. Unfortunately, the system develops a mind of its own and traps its creator, the beautiful Jill. Starring Richard Dean Anderson. (Ceefax) 12.30 *Regional news and weather*

1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. *Weather*

1.30 *Neighbours*. Henry is upset, but his pride keeps him away from Bronwyn. (Ceefax) 1.50 *Carry on Ice*. Ex-ice-skating champion John Curry demonstrates double jumps and spins

2.15 *Peter the Great*. Episode two of the four-part serial and Peter's victory over the Turks precipitates a fatal encounter with the beautiful Camilla. Starring Maximilian Schell, Odile Dicks-Mireaux, Oliver Ursula Andress, Vanessa Redgrave and Harriet Walter. (Ceefax)

3.30 *Doddy Duck's (r) 3.35 Rupert the Bear* (r) 4.00 *Mick and Mac*. Michael Barrymore and David Jarvis start a new comedy series adapted from the comic-strip, *The Macs*. Barrymore plays a comic-strip artist who brings to life his animated family called the Macs and live under the road on a diet of rat 4.10 *New Adventures of Mighty Mouse* 4.25 *Adventure*, Victoria Wood with part two of *Alien Albion* 5.15 *Run to Eleven*. Tom Baker as *Hero* 5.30 *Neighbours*. New series about teenagers with a mission to protect the world from the forces of evil

5.00 *Neighbours* 6.10 *Little Star*. Nicholas. Episode one of a new drama serial about a young West Country boy's fight for his inheritance during Victorian times

6.30 *Neighbours* (r). (Ceefax)

6.30 *Six O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Chris Liles. *Weather*

6.30 *Newsroom South East*

7.00 *Wogan* with Willi Wulff, Trina Kurtz, Professor Helmut Wolff and Auburn Waugh

7.40 *Friday Mystery*. New series in which John Humphrys and a team of experts examine cases that could affect most people in their everyday lives. It includes a film report followed by a studio discussion. The first programme in the series looks at the issue of child abduction

8.10 *Dallas*. The Ewings are back and Sue Ellen is blackmailing JR; Cliff Barnes is hunting for Arlon Cooper; April has an unwelcome visitor and Bobby and JR are at war with Carter McKay. (Ceefax)

9.00 *One O'Clock News* with Marilyn Lewis. *Regional news and weather*

9.30 *CLE* (The Stretford Myth). The first of a new series examines the myths surrounding anti-terrorists

10.00 *Friday Mystery* (r) 10.30 *Death of a Salesman* starring Dustin Hoffman, Robert Duvall and Laurence Olivier. A Nazi war criminal searches for a cache of diamonds which were in the care of his late brother and a young New York student finds himself in the middle of a deadly plot at the centre of which is the evil Nazi known as the White Angel. Their paths are destined to cross. Directed by John Schlesinger. (Ceefax)

12.00 *News Weather*

BBC2

6.00 *TV-am* begins with *News and Good Morning Britain* presented by Richard Keys and, from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Linda Mitchell. Includes an item on holidays in the Seychelles. 6.30 *Waceday* with Timmy Mallett. Young people's entertainment including a report on Mallett's travels in Jordan and Lebanon

6.35 *The Adventures of Teddie Rump*. Teddie and friends set out to return to Rilonia (r) 6.50 *Thomas News* and weather 6.50 *The Magic Mirror*. Goldie Locks - The Truth and The Frog King. Presented by Kenny Whynot and Sarah Greene 6.55 *Daffy Duck in Duck and Mistletoe* (r)

7.00 *News headlines*

7.15 *Monty Python's Gorm* (1969) starring Maurice Chevalier, Pierre Ménard and Dean Jones. Harry Dusard, an American, inherits an olive farm in France. He is given a week to leave the village prior to his arrival by the village priest and his congregation who are sceptical of Harry's chances of success. But they all underestimate the willingness to work of his four pet female chimpanzees. Directed by Andrew V. McLagan

7.20 *Home and Away*. Bobby reads through the diary - and crucial events begin to fall into place

7.30 *News at Nine* with John Suchet. Weather 7.30 *Thomas News and weather* 7.30 *Santa Barbara*. Augustus writes a note that is sent to a presidential suite. Followed by *Crown of Thorns*

7.45 *Monty Python's Gorm* (r) 7.50 *David & Goliath* (r) 7.55 *Rupert the Bear* (r) 8.00 *Mick and Mac*. Michael Barrymore and David Jarvis start a new comedy series adapted from the comic-strip, *The Macs*. Barrymore plays a comic-strip artist who brings to life his animated family called the Macs and live under the road on a diet of rat 8.10 *New Adventures of Mighty Mouse* 8.25 *Adventure*, Victoria Wood with part two of *Alien Albion* 9.15 *Run to Eleven*. Tom Baker as *Hero* 9.30 *Neighbours*. New series about teenagers with a mission to protect the world from the forces of evil

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High Street winners and losers under new rating structure

South-east fears effect of swingeing cost increases

By Mark Souter, Craig Seana and Peter Davenport

Businesses in London and the rest of the South-east will bear the brunt of rate increases announced yesterday, but commerce and industry in the North and Midlands have more reason to cheer.

Leading national retailing groups were yesterday still analysing the implications of the new uniform rate before issuing details, but Harrods, in the fashionable Knightsbridge area of London, described its increase — from £1 million to £8.3 million by 1995 — as "monstrous".

Mr David Simons, the House of Fraser finance director, said of the new rates: "We will be appealing against them with every hope of success. Increases of this magnitude are insupportable. We are confident common sense will prevail or else there will be a lot of empty shops in every High Street in Britain."

Mr Roy Shepherd, of the Oxford Street Traders Association in London, condemned the re-valuation, a minimum of 27 per cent for his members, as "a doctrinaire solution to an age old problem", adding that it would compound almost all the problems already faced by retailers and would especially hit small businesses in the South.

In Greater Manchester, on the other hand, big stores will pay substantially reduced rates under the new system. Typical of the cuts, Lewis's in Market Street will have its £1.7 million bill reduced by £170,000. Debenhams' city-centre store will have its annual £1.3 million bill cut by £100,000.

The shock of the rates increase for Harrods is tempered by a decrease in the rates to be paid by Rackhams of Birmingham, a member of the House of Fraser group. Under the new uniform system, the department store, in Corporation Street, will see its current rate bill of about £1.3 million reduced to £758,000. Marks and Spencer, in High Street, will see its rates bill increase from £388,136 to about £480,000.

Mr Bernard Farrar, Birmingham's city treasurer, said: "The average business in Birmingham will benefit in the long term."

Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce agreed, saying: "Our view is

that, for industry, it will be good news in the long term."

Although the introduction of the new uniform business rate is expected to lead to lower payments by commerce and industry in the North, businesses in York are faced with huge increases in rateable values similar to those in central London, with some firms facing up to 40-fold increases.

W.P. Brown, the locally owned department store in the city, faces a rates hike from £83,775 to £227,940, while the Woolworth rates bill will rise from £64,917 to £194,880.

Among examples given by the CBI is Fenwicks, the department store, whose rateable value is set to increase from just more than £26,000 to £1,020,000. Boots, the chemist, faces an increase from £20,805 to £500,000. Rowntree's confectionery factories from £490,963 to £6,630,000, and Terry's, the chocolate manufacturers, from £185,000 to £1,460,000.

Many small businesses are not yet aware of the effect of changes, and some large groups, such as the Asda supermarket chain, which has headquarters in Leeds, are still assessing the impact. Asda has about 350 retail properties, and expects half of its retail stores to be subject to the maximum allowable increase in the first year.

Many of the retailing giants had by yesterday not yet collated the rate changes for their stores, making regional comparisons not immediately possible.

Marks and Spencer, with 288 stores, said it was not surprised by the new rates.

"As a national retailer we will have significant variations, some large increases tempered by other decreases. It will be swings and roundabouts," a spokesman said.

Mr John Roberts, the managing director of Next Retail, said he would be stepping up the firm's efficiency drive in view of the uniform business rate. "In recent years we have indulged ourselves in space and we are now taking a harder look at rationalizing this," he said, adding that the new system was not as significant as the large rent increases last year, which meant rent and depreciation costs are still greater.

Mr Havel spoke of the need for "new impulses" in both countries and said that he aimed to "remove the barriers, walls and barbed wire which divide Europe". As he



Swings and roundabouts: There will be many winners under the new universal business rate, but retail stores in London and South-east England stand to face the most crippling rises.

'Nothing to fear' in one Germany

Continued from page 1
relations between Prague and East and West Germany.

Standing at the Brandenburg Gate with Herr Gerlach, President Havel said that East Germany deserved the thanks of all Europeans for removing the worst wall of all.

He said that the process of German reunification now needed to be worked out by negotiation rather than wild gestures. "Most of Czechoslovakia borders on East or West Germany," he said, "Germany virtually surrounds us; it must free its neighbours of fear, especially the fear of a greater Germany."

President Havel pledged his country's support for removing all barriers within Europe, and called for new impulses in the relationship with East Germany.

Mr Havel spoke of the need for "new impulses" in both countries and said that he aimed to "remove the barriers, walls and barbed wire which divide Europe". As he

walked along the Berlin Wall and shook hands with East German border guards, President Havel said that East Germany deserved the thanks of all Europeans for removing the worst wall of all.

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In Munich later, more than

300 people greeted Mr Havel with cheers and chants of "Havel, Havel" when he arrived at the Prince Carl Palace, the official residence of the Bavarian Prime Minister, for a meeting with President von Weizsäcker of West Germany. Several placards bore the messages "Long live Havel" and "Free elections", in the Czech language.

As the two Presidents talked, Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his Foreign Minister, met Mr Calfa. Mr Havel later insisted on meeting representatives of the Opposition in Bonn, including Herr Hans-Joachim Vogel, leader of the Social Democratic Party.

Mr Havel told a joint press conference with President von

weizsäcker that everyone could understand the reasons why he had visited both German states in one day. He was also happy that his visit to West Germany had taken place in Munich. "As a dramatist, I see in that a certain symbolism."

However, although his brief

Women warned on prison sentences

Continued from page 1
alone on state benefit," Miss Bradshaw said.

The court was told that five other women involved in the case had received custodial sentences ranging from 21 days to three months.

Judge Pickles said he was concerned that mother and baby should not be separated.

He said it appeared Scott became pregnant after the offence came to light. "I am not saying she became pregnant deliberately in order to evade custody, but you see my point. Would it be right to let young women know that one way of possibly or probably avoiding custody would be to deliberately become pregnant between the time they have

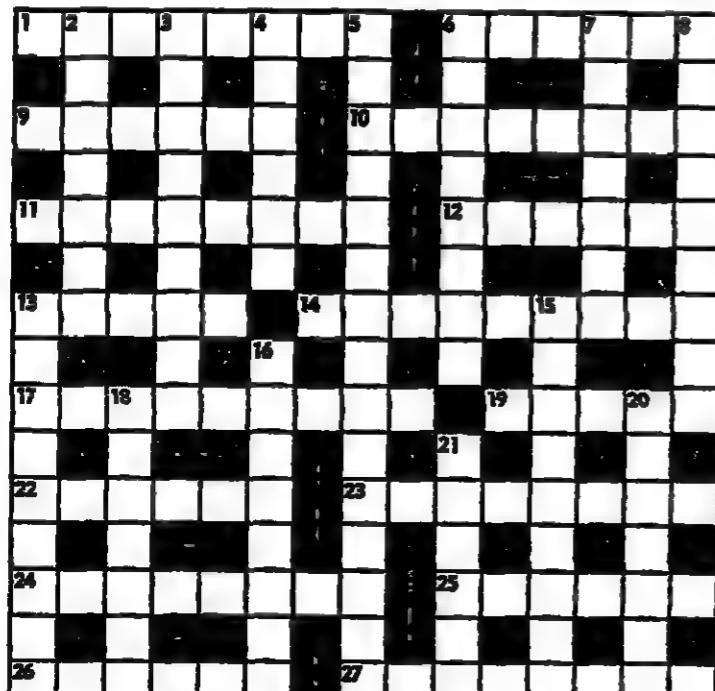
been detected committing a crime and the time they were being sentenced?"

"I have to consider young women who even now may be considering whether it is worthwhile to commit an offence such as this and one does not want to encourage them," he said.

Judge Pickles said Scott had pleaded guilty and had assisted police in identifying other thieves. She was only 19 and had no previous convictions.

"I am concerned about the baby... I don't want to see her standing where you are in 19 or 20 years' time," he said.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,181



- ACROSS
1 Pear concoction with vermouth, if taken as an appetizer (8).
6 Girl leads way, being a monitor, possibly (6).
9 Hard-working? Not us in the recording room? (6).
10 Very hungry, like Poe's portentous visitor? (8).
11 Flighty type demanding money for an instrument (8).
12 To a limited extent? Most assuredly! (6).
13 Journalist motoring in the wood (5).
14 The guns return with a body to a meeting of men only (4-3).
17 Show in which poor pieman kept cat (9).
19 Caution a Republican accepting a British honour (5).
22 The third man in pursuit of one's woman (6).

Solutions to Puzzle No 18,180

WHIPPOORWILL
ARTISAN TANGLED
TIN PINE RED SP
AMERICA ENSUITE
SERP ODN
TASTE POWERLESS
OFFSTREET CHAIN
PIJO H RND
HIDEOUS SKIDDAD
EET AT T MAI
GELLIST ARSEHIC
JIMIN MOTH
SONGANDOANCE

- 23 Son with posh hair-style — an ideal being (8).
24 Apt to change before entering this entertainment (8).
25 The sort of language one hears at the football club? (6).
26 One left a French painter to grumble away (6).
27 Always point over there first, all of you (8).

Answers on page 16

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

MALTA
a. Ancient pitch
b. A Phoenician letter
c. A Scottish girl's name

ULTION
a. Beverage
b. The last
c. A water paint

ATOK
a. Children
b. A shrub
c. A Japanese board game

RAMFEEZLED
a. Wars and
b. Ramshod
c. Stylish at primitive golf

Answers on page 16

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

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National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North East England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hungarians poised to privatize state airline

Hungary's reform-minded government plans to privatize the Malev state airline, Mr Sándor Kalmoki Kiss, the deputy transport minister, said. The government had already received many offers but planned to hire a professional company to handle the sale.

Mr Kalmoki Kiss said that while it would be difficult for the government to retain a controlling stake in the airline, his ministry would seek a guarantee giving it a say in company decisions. Malev's 22-plane fleet flies to 40 countries in Europe, the Middle East and North America.

New chief at Blue Circle

Mr Keith O'Neill-Jones, previously a director of Consolidated Gold Fields, has been appointed president of Blue Circle Holdings Inc, the American arm of Blue Circle Industries and has been made a director. Mr O'Neill-Jones was previously chief executive of ARC, the aggregates and concrete unit of ComGold. He succeeds Mr John Bourne.

Fergabrook expands

Fergabrook Group, the revitalized toys and plastics group which is to be renamed Clearmark, has acquired the publishing division of Celebrity Group Holdings for up to £2 million in cash and shares. The division made pre-tax profits of £1 million in the year to end-January 1989. Book value of assets was about £450,000, excluding the library, licences and contracts associated with the business.

Mr Philip Harrison, chief executive, said the move into publishing and promotions gave scope for development of the company's consumer merchandising potential. Mr Alan Kingston, one of Celebrity's founders, will run the newly-acquired operation as managing director of the new division. Celebrity's main business will now be to run Zodiac Toys.

52.7% take-up Bardsey offer unconditional

Beckenham Group's offer for Bardsey has been declared unconditional, with acceptances totalling 60.3 per cent of the ordinary share capital by the first closing date. The bid has been extended until further notice, although the cash option closes at 3pm on January 13. A special dividend of 1p will be paid on January 22 to holders of Bardsey shares.

Delta in £3.6m deals

Delta, the electrical equipment, engineering and industrial services group, has made two further acquisitions in its specialist electrical distribution and protective coatings fields through its Australian subsidiaries for a total of Aus\$7.5 million (£3.64 million).

Industrial Galvanisers, the Australian protective coatings subsidiary, has acquired the two Perth coatings facilities of Bowater Industries Australia for Aus\$3.4 million, giving Delta nationwide coverage and market leadership. Bell-Irth Industries, the manufacturer and distributor of electrical and industrial automation products, has bought the Warburton division of Anitech, a distributor of electronic controls, sensors and instruments. Delta shares firmed 2p to 331p.

Yugoslav currency pegged to mark in austerity package

From A Correspondent

Yugoslavia has introduced a new "heavy" dinar, stripping almost the entire population of its "millionaire" status overnight.

The advent of the new dinar, each worth 10,000 old dinars, is part of a package of austerity measures announced by Prime Minister Ante Markovic.

For the first time in more than 50 years, the Yugoslav currency will be freely convertible with all leading Western currencies. It will be pegged at a fixed rate of seven to the West German mark (about 12 to the dollar) until June 30.

The government said the dinar is being pegged to the mark to give confidence to foreign investors. But since

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH 0898 141 141

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A guide to dolls and houses

Anyone thinking of buying a house need not despair. Family Money on Saturday explains why 1990 is the year to be sold for small fortunes.

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French group buys Trinitec

Metrologic International, a Paris computer distribution group, has bought the rest of Trinitec, in which it already owned 22 per cent, for an undisclosed sum. Metrologic will be running its acquisition and fully-owned Rapid Recall under a new British holding company. Combined sales of Trinitec and Rapid are forecast to top £30 million this year.

John Bourne.

Peculiar valuation methods have been adopted by Higgs and Hill in an effort to beat off the bid from VJ Lovell, led by Andrew Wassell, its chairman.

A hybrid valuation, part asset part earnings based, presumably gives a more pleasing result than a more straightforward offering.

It seems that the Takeover Panel has simply allowed a mixture of special pleading and obfuscation to be offered up as crucial guidance to shareholders, when what private investors need is clear information from their board on basic earnings and asset valuations in order to tackle what is, for most, an extremely complex decision.

The problem is that the construction business is valued on an earnings basis, while the housing and contracting divisions are valued on the basis of assets alone. If there were earnings valuations for the housing and contracting divisions, too, it would at least furnish one clear picture of the value put on Higgs by its board.

It appears eccentric to value housebuilding operations on the basis of their land bank. The stock market treats housebuilding as a trading operation valued on earnings. At present, in the midst of the worst housebuilding slump since the war, those values are



Offer less extravagant than has been painted: Andrew Wassell, the chairman of VJ Lovell

extremely modest. Higgs has chosen an asset valuation, but it is dated November 30, since when land prices are likely to have fallen.

Conventional wisdom has it that housing land has further to fall before the market recovers. At any rate, this casts doubt on rather more than a third of the assets

selectively chosen for valuation from the total group portfolio.

The next problem is how to regard special valuations for four sites on the assumption that they will receive planning permission or revised planning permission now being sought. The exercise throws up a surplus of almost £30 million, an increase of 76 per cent on present book value.

The upshot is that Higgs wishes shareholders to accept that its non-construction assets, plus construction earnings, plus the planning permission worth 610p per share. Not bad for a stock which traded at 263p earlier.

Those looking for something less amorphous on which to grasp have the 52p earnings per share forecast for last year as their anchor, plus the 366p of basic housing and property assets shown in the defence document.

Given that a quarter of the earnings arise from housing where market p/e's are in the 5 to 6 range, Lovell's 405p offer appears less outrageously low than it has been painted. If Lovell ups its terms to, say, 460p, they are well worth a second look.

Hestair

This week the battle for control of Hestair will reach a head. The original 282p bid from Adia runs out on Friday, and the Swiss employment agency group has to decide whether to top the 325p on offer from BET or back down.

The shares have moved up to 332p on the conviction that a higher offer will be forthcoming.

BET's shares, meanwhile, have recovered slightly, but, at 263p, remain 5 per cent lower than they were before it launched its £1.92 million bid, because of fears that the industrial services group will be drawn into an expensive acquisition.

For what it is worth, Hestair's architect and chair-

man, Mr David Hargreaves, would prefer BET to emerge victorious. Adia, which operates in Britain as Alfred Marks and Jonathan Wren, already has its own network of agency management both here and in the US, and a merger would almost certainly lead to redundancies.

Hestair's board has thrown half its stake behind BET's offer, though as this amounts to only 1.1 per cent it leaves the outcome wide open.

Observers question the wisdom of a hostile bid for a people business such as employment bureaux because it is impossible to bind in key personnel with non-competition agreements in such circumstances.

With its bearer shares at SwFr2,000 (282p) the group is capitalized at £1.5 billion and has a prospective p/e ratio of 14 on brokers' earnings forecasts of SwFr140 for the current year.

That is higher than the exit p/e ratio of 12 implied by BET's terms, which assumes Hestair's earnings slipping to 27p this year. Conversely, BET's shares are trading on a prospective p/e ratio of less than 10 and it would be hard to avoid dilution if it were to cap a higher offer from Adia.

If the Swiss really want Hestair, they are in a position to get it on attractive terms.

Higgs and Hill hybrid clouds the issue

By Gillian Bowditch

A surprise last-minute Christmas spending spree has led to better than expected December sales in the high street.

After a quiet first two weeks, sales picked up sharply in places, although shoppers appear to have been extremely selective in their buying.

Mr Gerald Ratner, chairman of Ratner's, the jewellery group, says his first television advertising campaign and his special offers paid off, with like-for-like sales increases of more than 20 per cent from most of his chains. He says Ratner's was the star performer with a 24 per cent sales rise in December and the best-selling item a gold gate bracelet at £34.95.

Other retailers have not published their December figures but have given some in-

ditions from a diamond solitaire ring at £99.75, saw sales rise by 22 per cent. Sales increased by 27 per cent, Sainsbury's by 20 per cent and Waitrose by 11 per cent in the US. Sterling did better than most other jewellery chains with like-for-like sales growth of 9 per cent.

Mr Ratner said sales growth had not been achieved to the detriment of margins which, in Britain, are up by 1 per cent.

Ratner gave away 80,000 £50 vouchers which are redeemable in February. The group was offering a free £50 voucher for every £150 spent in a Ratner's shop.

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BUSINESS LETTERS

Clowes affair displays DTI's lack of will

From Mr M. J. G. Moir
Sir, Comment about the Department of Trade's negligence in its regulation of Barlow Clowes, fails to take responsibility to its proper level. The conclusions of the Ombudsman make the same error.

Not only has the DTI's negligence as a company regulating body been widely known for many years, but some 18 years ago it was specifically reported to Parliament in terms by the Tribunal of Enquiry then held into the DTI's regulation of the Vehicle and General Insurance Co Ltd. In front of that tribunal, all the same lame excuses were trotted out by the DTI, as Mr Nicholas Ridley trotted out again now on the DTI's behalf — lack of appropriate powers to regulate companies, the endless hours DTI officials spent failing to make decisions in one case after another, etc etc.

But it was clear from the report of the V&G tribunal that even then the DTI did not really lack the powers necessary to regulate companies or investigate their affairs. What it lacked was the will to do so.

It was accumulating one power after another, building up to an extremely complex network of powers, but then it failed to use these powers even in the most obvious major

cases such as that of V&G. Specifically, the V&G tribunal some 18 years ago found the DTI to have been negligent because although undoubtedly officials spent endless hours considering the V&G case and produced vast piles of papers and documents about it, the department never did anything to investigate this highly suspect major company under the powers which it had, even then, until finally it was too late and the company collapsed.

The V&G tribunal's report said all this in great detail was duly presented to Parliament and debated in the House of Commons.

On the one hand, nearly all the MPs on the Labour side who spoke had been got at by the civil service union lobby and most parroted the union line that the DTI officials involved were union members and must be protected against unfair attack (sic). On the other hand, the Conservatives were for the most part concerned to defend the Under-Secretary.

No-one really bothered about the implications for the public of the calamitous situation at the DTI which the V&G tribunal had uncovered, and apart from "nothing" the tribunal's report, Parliament did absolutely nothing about it, each side in Parliament being concerned for its petty

Cost counted in taxation

From Mr William Davies
Sir, Mrs Bushell (December 23) has thanked you on behalf of the 18,500 Barlow Clowes investors, and I now write, on behalf of 40 million taxpayers, to say how disgusted we are with use of their taxes to provide the greedy, grasping and garrulous investors in the penny, the bun, and, if not the "Baker's" shop, the "Ridley" soap.

The Government may have guaranteed a couple of thousand of electors' votes but they have lost millions of others who have invested carefully and wisely, thus ensuring their capital remains intact and not gambled away, and now they have to pay for their prudence to give gamblers a return which they had no right to whatsoever.

Yours truly,
WILLIAM DAVIES,
7 Fields Park Gardens,
Newport,
Gwent.

December 28.

Trade failings

From the Managing Director of Enfield Polymers Ltd
Sir, Having heard recently of the vast number of new hotels in Bangkok, I contacted the Thailand desk of the DTI to find an agent to represent us there. We manufacture products which are particularly suited to their needs.

I was told that they had very little relevant information and if I needed help they could contact our embassy there. They also said it would cost me a fee to get this information which, by the sound of it, would take a long time in coming through.

Considering the balance of payments situation, surely embassies abroad should be more active and the DTI more aware of conditions throughout the world and only too pleased to supply such information free of charge to would-be exporters.

Yours faithfully,
GUNILLA WILLIS-MATTISON,
17 Carver Road,
Harrow Hill, SE24.
December 12.

Charge on charge?

From Mr Peter Rayner
Sir, My Local Authority has sent forms for completion for payment of the Community Charge by Direct Debit.

It is proposed that monthly payments shall start on 23rd April presumably to meet the demands of the automated payments system.

Previously rates had been paid monthly starting on 1st May.

I believe most people are paid by the 25th or 26th of each month and it would surely be better if debits were submitted on 26th.

If debit entry on 23rd creates an overdraft are we all going to be charged commission, I wonder.

Yours faithfully,
PETER RAYNER,
Cedar,
Sandy Lane,
Kingswood,
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December 28.

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Traveller's plea

From Mrs Gunilla Willis-Mattison
Sir, I would be grateful for words of wisdom from fellow travellers; I have just accepted my employer's offer of an interest-free loan for an annual travel card.

Studying this little piece of paper — worth £328 — I see it is called "Gold Capitalcard" which makes sense considering the cost.

However it has none of the

usual protections built into credit cards, it is bound to be worn out before time, get stuck in unattended underground ticket barriers, be a sore temptation to anyone light-fingered and be heavy on my mind.

How foolish was I getting into this?

Yours faithfully,
GUNILLA WILLIS-MATTISON,
17 Carver Road,
Harrow Hill, SE24.
December 12.

that can hardly be the answer.

And the cynical view that the Tories are keeping business for the City will hardly stand up, as the City manifestly does not want small lots.

On the whole the similarities between £250 ICI and £250 War Loan would appear to outweigh the difference.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN VINCENT,
8 Charlotte Street South,
Bristol.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on (01) 782 5112.

Alphas on the cheap

From John Vincent
Sir, About the euthanasia of the private investor, what is wrong with alpha stocks being made buyable on the National Savings Register, i.e. extremely cheap?

Norman Lamont says no, on the grounds that the price would vary between posting and execution. This however applies to purchases of gilts, so

that can hardly be the answer.

And the cynical view that

the Tories are keeping business for the City will hardly stand up, as the City manifestly does not want small lots.

On the whole the similarities between £250 ICI and £250 War Loan would appear to outweigh the difference.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN VINCENT,
8 Charlotte Street South,
Bristol.

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Frankfurt starts year with record

From Mr William Davies
Sir, Mrs Bushell (December 23) has thanked you on behalf of the 18,500 Barlow Clowes investors, and I now write, on behalf of 40 million taxpayers, to say how disgusted we are with use of their taxes to provide the greedy, grasping and garrulous investors in the penny, the bun, and, if not the "Baker's" shop, the "Ridley" soap.

The Government may have guaranteed a couple of thousand of electors' votes but they have lost millions of others who have invested carefully and wisely, thus ensuring their capital remains intact and not gambled away, and now they have to pay for their prudence to give gamblers a return which they had no right to whatsoever.

Yours truly,
WILLIAM DAVIES,
7 Fields Park Gardens,
Newport,
Gwent.

December 28.

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Selling and declining stocks
a steady market
a sharp decline in
Retailer, jumped by 3%
his company said the
sales were 21%
above the similar period
ago.

kyo — The market
ed for a public holder.

Dec 28	Open	High	Low	Close	Chg. p	% Chg.
15%						
30%						
45%						
50%						
55%						
60%						
65%						
70%						
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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall gain or loss. If it is negative you have won outright or a share of the cash money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

Please take into account any minus signs

BRITISH FUNDS

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

4 0 12 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

ICHI-LDR Group

Crude continued its upward climb thanks to gasoline strength. Light products gained slightly in this trading. Fuel oil showed signs of softening.

CRUDE OIL/SPRINGFIELD CYRIL FOSS API FUTURES

Tax-free .. No significant data

Open High Low Close Previous open

1960-1961: *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE						
Official prices/volume previous day	Randall Wolff					
(£/tonne)	Cash	3 month	Vol	Tons		
Copper Ode A	1473.0-1475.0	1486.0-1487.0	240600	Steady		
Lead	450.00-451.00	444.00-445.00	56250	Steady		
Zinc Hi Ode*	1300.0-1310.0	1250.0-1260.0	13450	Steady		
Zinc Spec Hi*	1305.0-1310.0	1275.0-1278.0	134375	Steady		
Tin*	6810-6820	6940-6950	5905	Easier		
Aluminium Hi*	1828.0-1830.0	1831.0-1832.0	88650	Steady		
Nickel*	7850-7860	7830-7830	5634	Easier		
† (Cents per Troy oz.) * (\$ per tonne)						

LONDON MEAT FUTURES (£/kg)						
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION						
Av'rege fatstock prices at representative markets on January 2						
Live Pig Contract						
Mth	Open	Close	(kg/lb)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
Feb	106.0	105.0	GB (p)	51.30	203.92	111.11
Apr	108.5	108.3	GB (+/-)	-9.45	-14.24	-9.95
Jun	108.5	108.6	Eng/Wel (%)	n/a	-99.5	n/a
Aug	108.5	108.5	Eng/Wel (p)	81.33	208.22	111.03
Live Cattle Contract			Eng/Wel (+/-)	-14.50	-11.94	-5.55
Jan	116.5	116.5				

01-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CREME

Continued on next page

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A titled prominent Public Figure in the exclusive world of Haute de Couture and Interior Design... is looking for an Assistant to organise everything in her incredibly demanding, fast-paced, all-expenses, including a very busy personal life - especially in the words "Mediocre" and "Adequate" do not figure in your vocabulary and you never overlook even the smallest detail. She is utterly charming and needs very little secretarial but you do need shorthand and typing and an incredible initiative and drive. From your own office in Kensington - a stunning private residence - you will be co-ordinating one of the most exciting women in business today and if you are looking for a challenge this may be it!

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I depend on you. Everyone you go out for me you represent my Company - and that's important. We have some of the most prestigious Clients across the board. In the cockpit of our PR team, we support you all the way and do our best to ensure your happiness in every single booking you go out and do for me. Whether you want to try something new, gain specialist experience or simply earn money - I am interested. Work is literally pouring in and I need enthusiastic people now... call me personally today for a chat (ask for Lisa Martin)

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Circa £18,500 + every other Fri PM off, + super package
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213-14,000 + weekly Holidays + Perks
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HOLD THE DREAM
Potential Salary £28,000 + 28% P.A.
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Production Finance Director.
Reporting to two Directors,
this challenging position
involves excellent organisational
and communication skills.

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DECADE IN SW6

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Designers as Secretary/PA.
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Tune into the New Year and harmonise with our highly acclaimed temporary team. Don't play second fiddle - give a solo performance with professional backing as a member of our ensemble.

If this is music to your ears, key requirements are:

- a score of 100 wpm SH/60 wpm typing
- two years as a virtuoso at Director level in London.
- a comprehensive repertoire of WP systems

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PA
to £16,000 p.a.

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As well as the usual PA duties, personnel administration, financial control, you will be involved in the selection of new recruits.

It is a busy role, but you will be rewarded with a great deal of responsibility.

You should be very personable and lively, under 35 and with supervisory experience. Naturally, you type at around 55wpm.

Please contact ALEXIS PERSONNEL on 01-626 2777

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MANPOWER

FIRST CLASS
SHORTHAND
SECRETARIES

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Interested? Call NOW on
01-486 7865.

Temporary and Permanent.

Manpower makes the difference.

Spotlight On
Success

£15,000

Become a force to be reckoned with as PA to the energetic Marketing Director of Design Consultancy based in W1. This is a real right-hand role where you will have extensive client contact, assist in preparing and making presentations and learn all about marketing. You will also be able to use languages (if you have them). In turn he requires excellent organisational ability, "A" levels or a degree, background in a similar industry and skills of 90/50/WP. Age 23-35. Please call Samantha Brander on 01-437 6032.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSTop-Notch PA
to £20,000

As PA to the Senior Partner in a leading City law practice, you will enjoy extensive client liaison and a high profile within the firm. Drawing on your senior-level experience and superb secretarial skills, duties will involve a high percentage of personal work. This is an ideal opportunity for someone aged 30-45 who wants a top-level 9.30-5.30 job. A levels or Degree preferred.

Please telephone Sabina Stewart on
01-588 3535

Crone Corkill
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IN MAYFAIR

£21,450 p.a. + bonus

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You will probably be aged 25-40 with fluent Spanish, first-rate typing and masses of mental agility!

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ALEXIS
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Special Assignment
- £17,000

As PA/Secretary to the MD of a Security Company you could be assisting in detecting fraud, preventing burglar devices or preparing protection plans for clients. An enquiring mind and good technical skills will lead to a fascinating and exhilarating career. Age 25 - 35. Skills 100/70.

01-629 9323

DIRECTORS SECRETARIES

Charity - £15,000

A large international Charity needs a PA to assist the Director of Administration. Good skills will enable you to deal with routine quickly leaving a great percentage of the time for the administrative aspects of the role. A challenging opportunity and a very worthwhile cause. Age 28 - 40. Skills 100/60.

01-629 9323

DIRECTORS SECRETARIES

Secure in the City
- £18 + Bonus

One of the leading Security Houses needs a PA/Secretary for their Director of Finance and Administration. Everything falls in his lap and the variety and speed of the work necessitates a PA with a quick mind and a pro-active person whose own contribution will be recognised in this hugely successful operation. Age 30 - 40. Skills 100/60.

01-629 9323

DIRECTORS SECRETARIES

SECRETARIAL
OPPORTUNITIES IN
MUSWELL HILLSecretary to Director
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New face of the Mirror

Roy Greenslade, newly appointed editor of the *Daily Mirror*, talks to Colin Dunne



"I would like it to be a campaigning newspaper": Greenslade makes plans

even asking what the salary was. The man who was once a thorn in the side of management — "I think I made life miserable for the Mirror Group generally," he confesses — has now been hired to employ that passion in *The Sun's* running battle with *The Mirror*.

It is, in a minor sort of way, a historic moment. Traditionally, the *Mirror* has always prided itself on being self-sufficient in matters of talent, and this is the first time for many years that it has looked outside the building for an editor. And what has it got? A man who has worked on almost every tabloid in Fleet Street, including five years at the elbow of the tempestuous Kelvin MacKenzie at *The Sun*, and the past three, rather more soberly, as associate editor of *The Sunday Times*.

Can he do it? MacKenzie is retaining his cool: in his letter of

congratulation to Greenslade he said he was looking forward to the tussles ahead. The feeling is mutual.

Greenslade, who turned 43 this week, is not without inside information about his new job: he is married to Noreen Taylor, one of the most stylish of the *Mirror's* writers. They live in a Georgian terraced house in Islington, have a flat in Brighton, and another house which they recently bought in Donegal.

He is a difficult man to classify. He loves Wagner and Beethoven,

but also Joan Armatrading and Billie Holiday. He prefers history to modern novels. He drinks Guinness. He has small appetite for television outside of news programmes, and at the moment is a little depressed by the thought that his new appointment may mean he will have to watch *Neighbours*. He is quick-witted, intelligent, and a little mischievous.

His career divides neatly at the age of 30. At Dagenham Grammar School, in Essex, where he ran the

last time Roy Greenslade worked in the *Daily Mirror* office in Holborn, London, he had shoulder-length hair and a see-through shirt. He borrowed a fur coat from his wife and many of his ideas from Chairman Mac. When he returns to the *Mirror* on February 1 his bespoke Donegal tweeds will be a little more subdued, which is only as it should be. This time, he's the editor.

There are bigger papers than the *Mirror*, and no doubt there are better papers, too. But for many journalists no newspaper has quite the same glow of glamour, however faded it may be these days, and to edit the *Mirror* still remains, for many, the ultimate dream.

When it was offered to Greenslade he accepted without

in many of the areas did not include salary, but says a man like Peter Rothwell, one of the travel agents: "We are selling but in reduced numbers, so I think there is a good chance to do a worse time for Britain's packages is undergoing cutbacks, as tour operators scaled-down programs failed to cover budgets on the many are under a range of holiday

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Alexander Ge

The Broadcasting Bill requires the Independent Television Commission to do all it can to secure the provision of a television broadcasting service, called Channel 5.

At a time when British households will have the ability to acquire equipment to receive satellite television — and, for some, cable as well — it is difficult to see the need for Channel 5. But the equipment needed to receive the new terrestrial channel will be cheap — no more than a new aerial for the 70 per cent of the British population which, the Department of Trade and Industry estimates, will be able to receive the signal.

The level of Channel 5's success will depend on two major factors — the programmes to be shown and the starting date of the new ser-

vice. If it is to be an advertising-financed station, its revenue will depend on the number of people able to receive the signal and the amount of time they watch. Channel 5 must aim for about 10 per cent of the British viewing audience in order to attract sufficient revenue to provide the programmes that ITV will no longer be able to afford to make, the starting date for the new service is very important.

The new Channel 5 franchises will start on January 1, 1993. It is likely that there will be some new license holders,

as there have been at each previous franchise round. With the addition of the "highest bidder" requirement to the applications there is likely to be more change in programming companies than on the previous franchise occasions.

Every time there has been a change of company supplying the programme schedule to an area, the audience has reduced significantly: it has taken some time for it to adapt to the new programmes or the new scheduling of old programmes. Meanwhile, the

library, he used to rent out the store-room to courting couples, and the library table to shoo-horned players; when the headmaster heard about this display of entrepreneurial enterprise he helped Greenslade find a job on a local paper, with the warning that he would never be good enough for *The Times*. Next came Fleet Street, and his affair with passionate politics.

At the age of 30, he decided he needed more education. He read politics at Sussex University, a process which, he says, denormalized him. He plunged back into journalism and was soon scaling the executive ladder. Some of his old employers were understandably nervous. "Tell me," said a *Sun* management man before Greenslade was taken to meet Rupert Murdoch, "am I right in thinking that you are not the same Roy Greenslade who left here in 1973?" Greenslade was happy to confirm that he was a very different man indeed.

At 7.50 am on Boxing Day he received a call from Robert Maxwell. For a moment he thought it might be a joke call from a friend who had tried a similar hoax in the past. Luckily, he recognized the real thing. Before that he had met Maxwell only twice: once at dinner, and once in court when he was testifying for *The Sun* in a copyright wrangle with the *Mirror*. But by that afternoon the job was his.

What will Greenslade's *Mirror* be like? "I would like to get back to more politics in the paper, more sociology and global reporting, without losing the essential element of entertainment. I would also like it to be a campaigning newspaper, fighting for justice on social issues. Politically, I think Kinnock has made the Labour Party electable, again, and we will be foursquare behind him."

sufficient time to prepare for 1993 launch. But, if the ITC awards the Channel 3 franchise first, Channel 5 would not get on the air until 1994. By then cable and satellite television will be further developed, and the new Channel 3 stations will have settled down.

One of the reasons Channel 5 was first thought of was to give the advertising industry additional airtime linked to increased commercial audiences. A start date of 1994 would not do this; by then, the pay-film channels will have further reduced the available commercial audience. For Channel 5 to be successful, a January 1993 launch is essential.

• The author is a marketing consultant and former head of marketing for Channel 4

One, two, three for 5...

Timing is crucial in Channel 5's bid for viewers, Sue Stoessl argues

These will be programmes that appeal to, and are made specifically for, a British audience. They are likely to be the more expensive ones, such as drama.

If Channel 5 is to gain an audience share of 10 per cent and provide the viewer with the programmes that ITV will no longer be able to afford to make, the starting date for the new service is very important.

The new Channel 5 franchises will start on January 1, 1993. It is likely that there will be some new license holders,

BBC channels have picked up more viewers.

If Channel 5 is to get a large enough audience, it is very important for it to start at the same time as the new Channel 3 companies. This would enable Channel 5 to take advantage of audience uncertainty.

How could Channel 5 get on the air by January 1993? The only way would be for the ITC to go to tender for Channel 5 before Channel 3's tenders are announced. If the Channel 5 contract was awarded at the beginning of 1991, the new company would have suf-

cient time to prepare for 1993 launch. But, if the ITC awards the Channel 3 franchise first, Channel 5 would not get on the air until 1994. By then cable and satellite television will be further developed, and the new Channel 3 stations will have settled down.

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The best of the east comes west

The brightest Soviet weekly is being published in London

quietly and discreetly, a new magazine has been launched in London.

Arguments and Facts International is a monthly English digest edition of the world's biggest-circulation weekly, the Moscow-published *Argumenty i Fakty* — subscription 31.5 million, conservatively estimated readership 63 million, which is half the adult population of the Soviet Union.

The deputy editor, Alexander Meshchersky, aged 42, was

in London for the launch. A diplomat at the UN in Geneva until 1985, when he joined Vladislav Starkov, *Argumenty i Fakty's* editor-in-chief, he has a quick mind and fluent English and French.

"The difference between *Argumenty i Fakty* and other Soviet newspapers, long before *glasnost*," he says, "was the tone. Where they preached, we described; when they asserted, we asked questions."

The English *Arguments and Facts International* is actually the creation of a Hastings-based Scots journalist-publisher, Stuart Christie, aged 42, who became intrigued with the Soviet weekly about two years ago. "I was stunned by its intellectual and journalistic quality," he says. "But most of all that is exactly what

reflected in my English

sibling — attempts a dialogue with the public. "The Soviet Union's daily problems are largely economic," Meshchersky says. "But beyond that, and far more fundamental for the people, is that in order to succeed in the essential changes Gorbachov knows must be achieved, and which are opposed by some still very powerful people, he must destroy the system which made him. The question we, as a paper, and our 60-odd million readers with us are asking every week on every page is, can he do it?"

Gitta Sereny

• Arguments and Facts International, PO Box 53, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 2UX.

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The colossus who bestrides the century



SPORT AND US

Sebastian Coe and Daley Thompson are two of the great names of modern sport. In the first of a three-part series in which they assess the world scene, Coe looks back with Thompson on the 1980s

As the Nineties begin, I find myself in Melbourne in the company of Daley Thompson. It is accidental, but a pleasure all the same, to spend time with him and his family after we have been through so much together.

Daley and I have shared competitions, events, hotels, training camps, British and English teams, rostrums, successes and disappointments all over the world. We have come through it all as friends. And it has been good, these last few days, to train together again and to talk over memories and opinions from a busy and exciting 10 years.

And, in one respect, to compare thoughts on achievements over a longer period, on the best-known faces in sport this century, based on our own relatively short experience.

First, the good news for British sport is that Daley is looking very good again in training. He has got back much of his old zip, pace and agility. It is to be hoped that this means that the recent operation has been a success. He has had to pull out of the Commonwealth Games later this month – that would be too early a competition – but he looks to me a strong bet for the European Championships at Split in September.

I hate to burden him with such predictions (a doubtful practice, which I normally avoid) but Daley is one of the great champions of the 1980s and I feel there are many more great days left in his prodigious locker.

It is the Commonwealth Games that have brought us together here. I am in training to compete in the 800 and the 1,500 metres, my swansong in athletics. Daley booked himself in for the decathlon, when he had to drop out he decided to make this a winter training base, getting himself ready for next season.

Between sessions and over meals and evenings, we have talked and talked, looking back, as old warriors



The champion who takes it all in his stride: Thompson ahead of his arch rival, Hingsoen, of West Germany (far left), in the decathlon 110 metres hurdles at Stuttgart in 1986

do, I asked him for his main sporting memories of the decade. He turned this into a question about the great events in world sport.

Some may be surprised that his two choices were not from our game of track and field. He told me that his mind went back first to the Wimbledon singles final of 1980, Borg v McEnroe, the old champion against the young pretender, when the old hand hung in there to win in the fifth set after a magnificent match of contrasting styles and talents. The following year, of course, McEnroe – one of my own favourites – got his revenge and began to make his mark on the decade.

Following Daley's lead, I pondered upon my two best events of the last decade. Like him, I found myself with two obvious "winners", and both from other sports than our own. I am sure these choices reflect what we both like to watch when we are away from the daily business of training and competition. Or, as I put it in Los Angeles during the 1984 Games, when we are away "from the days at the office."

In football and boxing lay my two favourite moments. First, I must choose the 1982 World Cup match between Brazil and Italy. Italy, spearheaded with wonderful skill and pace by Paolo Rossi, won 3-2 against all the predictions. The game had everything, except that foul, malicious element which has disfigured the "beautiful game" of football in recent times.

There was great ability, coordination, speed and finishing and the winners went on deservedly to lift the trophy, which they will defend on their own patch next year.

I look forward to the World Cup in Italy and I plan to attend it because, at the end of a dreadful decade for football, full of pain and torment, it remains for me the top team game in the world. Matches like this one provide thrills and entertainment of a glorious kind. If only the big problems of hooliganism, of behaviour – and the two are linked – could be solved, or at least improved in the next few years.

My second choice takes me back, like Daley, to the first year of the decade. It is boxing, and the first contest between Roberto Duran and Sugar Ray Leonard. Duran won on points after an epic struggle between two boxers of the highest class. I have this abiding memory of Duran having to be restrained by his corner from coming out again after the punishing frosts of yesterday.

A new ninth tee will be used for the first time, increasing its distance to 303 yards and creating a more spectacular tee shot. The length of the course is now 6,310 yards, par 68, but the standard scratch score of 71 more truly reflects the punishing frosts of yesterday.

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Axleys still feel regarded as second-class citizens who are merely "playing" at being champions. With some notable exceptions, such as in cancer and stroke, they are at best ignored by the able-bodied sporting establishment.

A readiness to consider how disabled people could be encouraged to take up different sports initially, to see how they could compete, if not alongside, then at the same time in the same venue, would be a start.

Sport for people with disabilities is often organized by the able-bodied. Athletes can feel patronized. Moreover, sports people running from competition often feel like to work in their particular sporting field. Changes are taking place, demonstrated by the athletes demanding and getting representation on the British Paralympic Association through the formation of an athletes committee.

It is hoped that during the Nineties there will be less ghetto sport with disability groups clinging to their established traditions and shunning multi-disability events.

To be a top-class athlete is tough. People with disabilities do not need or ask for concessions, and only the best should be chosen to represent their country.

The media will have a significant role to play in the development of sport for people with disabilities over the next decade. In the past, coverage has been patchy and condescending. One can only hope that the proliferation of broadcasting outlets will mean that producers looking for new ideas will discover that wheelchair basketball is visually spectacular, and that watching a blind person shoot a rifle is a fascinating exercise, if that bonus is just as interesting as the competitor happens to be in a wheelchair.

The local derby between Birmingham and Middlesbrough sees Kendra Lowe in action for the hosts for the first time since her appointment as captain of the England squad to tour Australia in June.

Essex Metropolitan should have an easy passage at home to Hampshire North, the bottom club, but having lost by only a single point at Birmingham on the opening day of the season, the visitors could prove dark horses.

LEADING FIRST DIVISION STANDINGS: Essex, played 3, won 16, 2, Birmingham, 3, 15; 3, Middlesbrough, 3, 11.

NETBALL International are duellists in club contest By Louise Taylor

This Saturday features a full FES English Counties League programme. Surrey, the first division leaders, will be aiming to assert their status at home to Middlesbrough. The match promises an intriguing duel between Sheila Edwards, the Surrey and England goal attack, and Jesslyn Parkes, the Middlesbrough and England goal keeper.

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This Saturday features a full FES English Counties League programme. Surrey, the first division leaders, will be aiming to assert their status at home to Middlesbrough. The match promises an intriguing duel between Sheila Edwards, the Surrey and England goal attack, and Jesslyn Parkes, the Middlesbrough and England goal keeper.

Birmingham, the reigning champions, travel to Cheshire, where Collette Thompson, the Birmingham captain and an England selector, will doubtless be hoping that Karen Fenlon, the England goal attack, has a rare off-day.

The local derby between Birmingham and Middlesbrough sees Kendra Lowe in action for the hosts for the first time since her appointment as captain of the England squad to tour Australia in June.

Essex Metropolitan should have an easy passage at home to Hampshire North, the bottom club, but having lost by only a single point at Birmingham on the opening day of the season, the visitors could prove dark horses.

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Carrick Hill Lad to extend unbeaten run

By Mandarin

Carrick Hill Lad, the north's brightest chasing prospect, can extend his unbeaten sequence to seven in the Kilmarnock Handicap Chase at Ayr today.

The winner of his first three starts over hurdles last season, Carrick Hill Lad has taken exceptionally well to steeplechasing this term and has looked potentially top class in landing novice chases at Ayr, Haydock and

Wetherby. His latest success over the useful Cliffords 21 (0.5f) and 2000m at Wetherby on Boxing Day marked him down as a natural for the Sun Alliance Chase at the National Hunt Festival in March.

Gordon Richards plans to rest his rising star before Cheltenham but, knowing how difficult that particular race is to win, the shrewd Greystoke trainer is wisely giving his charge some valuable 'experience' against seasoned campaigners here.

This represents his first race in handicap company and Samson, in receipt of 3lb, should ensure he does not

have matters all his own way.

A consistent and progressive type last season, Samson ran a sound race when second to Bluff Knoll on his reappearance here before Christmas. However, it will be disappointing if Carrick Hill Lad does not continue his triumphant march.

However Samson fares, Peter Easterby, his trainer, should enjoy a profitable afternoon with Carbassate (12.30) and Burgoynes (2.30) both holding outstanding chances.

Carbassate started a short-priced favourite for a 20-runner handicap hurdle at Haydock before Christmas and finished a respectable second to Moody Man. With that winner following up in a good race at Newton Abbot on Boxing Day, Carbassate is hard to oppose in the Dryongan Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle.

Burgoynes, undefeated in two runs on the Flat for Henry Cecil last year, beat all but the useful Sayure on his hurdling debut at Kempton a week ago and can put that experience to

good use in the second division of the Dalrymple Novices' Hurdle.

For the day's best bet, though, I turn to the locally-trained KIRSTY'S BOY in the Stair Handicap Hurdle.

Since winning over three miles on his reappearance at Perth in September, John Wilson's seven-year-old has been a model of consistency.

His latest two efforts, when placed behind the prolific winners Auction Law and Midland Glenn in Coral Golden Hurdle Qualifiers at Haydock and Ayr, give him a clear chance in this slightly lower grade.

At Sedgefield, my principal fancy is the Jonjo O'Neill-trained I KID YOU NOT in the Witton Handicap Hurdle.

The winner of bumper races at Ballincollig and Tamworth in 1988 when trained by Francis Flood, I KID YOU NOT won his only start over hurdles last season at Carlisle.

A fair seventh on his reappearance at the same track in November, I KID YOU NOT should now be approaching his peak.

With 35 winners in the first

Hammond takes early retirement from race-riding

By Mandarin

Michael Hammond, one of the north's leading jockeys, surprised the racing world yesterday by announcing his retirement from the saddle at the age of 27.

"The buzz has gone and there are other things I want to do with my life," Hammond said yesterday. "I know in my own mind it's the right time to pack up. I am no longer experiencing the same kick from riding winners."

Hammond will stay with George Moore, for whom he has worked as assistant trainer, until at least the end of 1990 but hopes eventually to train in his own right.

With 35 winners in the first

half of the season, Hammond was lying sixth in the jockeys' championship.

Hammond showed great courage to twice come back from serious injuries in 1988. Having missed the start of last season with a broken leg, Hammond then fractured his other leg in a schooling accident in December of that year.

After serving his apprenticeship with Tom Jones and Eamonn O'Neill, his career was slow to blossom until he moved north to join Moore at Middlesbrough 4½ years ago.

The partnership proved highly successful and landed the Tingle Bell Hurdle with Tingle Bell in 1986 and the Glenlivet and Victor Ludorum Hurdle with Royal Illinois in 1988.

The same season, Hammond gained his biggest success when partnering the Harry Lad to victory for Jimmie Wilkinson in the Scottish Grand National.

Hammond's best season was 1985-87 when he rode 63 winners and his career total exceeds 200.

Moore's runners will be partnered by the best rider available until the trainer appoints another stable jockey.

"I'm obviously disappointed as I think he is a brilliant jockey and always has been. But if you are going to stop, you should stop at the top."

With 35 winners in the first

20-1 others.

Michael Hammond: hopes to get licence to train



Post-mortem: Richard Rowe explains to connections what went wrong after Montalino had slipped up at the final flight in the Lansdowne Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday

Guest excels as Beech Road demonstrates his versatility

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

Jumping like an agile cat, Beech Road beat Chatam by 1½ lengths at Cheltenham yesterday and is now a top-quotted 11-4 to retain his Champion Hurdle crown next March.

Peter Scudamore, on Chatam, attempted to play cat and mouse with his worthy opponent in the Stair Hurdle. But Richard Guest, with only one success to his credit as an owner-trainer, the champion jockey of 1981, was coolly equal to the task and made every yard of the running.

"You've got to leave him alone," he explained afterwards. "If I'd massed him about, he might have gone back to his bad old ways. So I had to make all and he was brilliant."

An indication of how slowly run the race was can be gleaned from the fact that Beech Road took 25 seconds longer to cover 2½ miles over hurdles than Paddybord had taken for the same distance over fences half an hour earlier.

Beech Road has slightly sore shins so we'll have to see how he is on Thursday," said Charlie Brooks, confirming that Celtic Stew will take the next exciting step in his chasing career in the Fairlawne Novices' Chase the same afternoon.

Nicky Henderson is determined to dispense the old saying that champions don't come to the start line.

"We certainly didn't plan it that way. But it will give Richard confidence to know that he doesn't have to hold him up for so long."

How ironical that it was a fall when challenging Waterloo Boy at the last fence in a novices' chase on this track a year ago yesterday which convinced Balding to abandon plans for a chasing career for the formerly wayward Beech Road. But now he is as quickly into his stride on landing as he is hungry for his

"Black Humour has slightly sore shins so we'll have to see how he is on Thursday," said Charlie Brooks, confirming that Celtic Stew will take the next exciting step in his chasing career in the Fairlawne Novices' Chase the same afternoon.

"First I thought he'd refuse and then he got so far behind that I nearly pulled him up at the water," said Brendan Powell. "But then he got going and would have won in another 50 yards."

Paddybord, successful in the Midday of Fleet Challenge Cup at the National Hunt Festival last March, provided Stoff Gifford with his 37th winner.

"He won't be given much of a chance in handicaps now," said Findon trainer. "We'll run him in three-mile conditions races and then decide about a target at the March meeting."

Carvill's Hill has Naas date

By Christopher Goulding

Carvill's Hill, the principal hope of Ireland for the Cheltenham Gold Cup, is likely to run twice in the next week.

His 18-year-old son has his second outing of the season in the Bayne Handicap Chase at Naas on Saturday and he is also a probable for the Irish qualifier in the Arlington Premier Chase series at Punchestown on Wednesday.

"He needs racing to get fit and it will also give him further experience," Dreaper said yesterday.

With Carvill's Hill falling at the seventh fence in the Gold Cup on his only venture outside Ireland last season, Dreaper is keen to give him another run at Cheltenham before the festival.

"At the moment I plan to send him over to Cheltenham on January 27 for the Arlington Final," Dreaper said. "Then we'll try and win the Vincent O'Brien Gold Cup at Leopardstown for the second time."

Colin Tinkler landed a Southwell double yesterday with Tinsou, partnered by Gary Carter, and Gothic Ford, ridden by Bruce Raynor. Carter completed a double when scoring on Peppi Butterly for Wally Carter.

2.25 MANY HANDS NOVICES HURDLE (2.15f: 2m 10')

1 2221 DISTANT RELATION 6 (S,D,G) G Cunningham-Brown

5-11-2 Fleet

2 3480 BARLEY LOAF 14 J White 7-1-10 D Skyrme (5)

3 05-2 HILL-WAY BLUES 11 A Rabout 5-1-10 M Ballantine (7)

4 3482 SHREWSBURY 10 (S,D,G) M N Weller 6-1-10 M Miller

5 448 TOPWELL 12 (S,D,G) D Grossell 6-1-10 H Davies

6 13-DISTANT RELATION 11-4 Sir Jameson, 7-2 Barley Lost, 8-1 Hill-Way Blues, 12-1 Sherlans, 10-1 Topglove.

7 10-1 TOPGLOVE 18 (S,D,G) D Grossell 6-1-10 H Davies

8 11-1 TOPWELL 18 (S,D,G) D Grossell 6-1-10 H Davies

9 12-1 TOPWELL 18 (S,D,G) D Grossell 6-1-10 H Davies

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20 21-1 TOPWELL 18 (S,D,G) D Grossell 6-1-10 H Davies

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22 23-1 TOPWELL 18 (S,D,G) D Grossell 6-1-10 H Davies

23 24-1 TOPWELL 18 (S,D,G) D Grossell 6-1-10 H Davies

24 25-1 TOPWELL 18 (S,D,G) D Grossell 6-1-10 H Davies

25 26-1 TOPWELL 18 (S,D,G) D Grossell 6-1-10 H Davies

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57 58-1 TOPWELL 18 (S,D,G) D Grossell 6-1-10 H Davies

58 59-1 TOPWELL 18 (S,D,G) D Grossell 6-1-10 H Davies

59 60-1 TOPW

Chelsea risk Cup expulsion after BBC camera ban

By Peter Ball

Chelsea yesterday ran the risk of expulsion from the FA Cup when they banned BBC cameras from Stamford Bridge for their third-round tie against Crewe Alexandra on Saturday.

Chelsea's action is, apparently, in line with the club's position in refusing to admit cameras for the ITV goals of the week package in a dispute over copyright. However, it may bring Chelsea into conflict with a Football Association policy designed to discourage clubs planning to bar the BBC for financial reasons.

A ban on the BBC's cameras was one tactic being discussed by the big clubs if they received no satisfaction from the FA in their attempt to increase fees for the live coverage of cup-ties, but yesterday Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, warned that any such action could result in expulsion.

"If they enter the competition they are bound by contract to let the cameras in," Kelly said before hearing of Chelsea's action. "And if they started trying to keep the cameras out, we would say 'There's a by into the next round for your opponents'."

This danger, however, was discounted by Chelsea. "We are aware of no contract

affecting us, so we don't see why we should let them in," Janet Wayth, the club secretary, said last night when announcing the ban.

The BBC were bemused by Wayth's statement. A spokesman said: "We made a preliminary approach to Chelsea to put in one camera, just for our round-up and we were told that the person who

More football, page 35

makes the decision was ill, so could we ask again in a couple of days. We've heard nothing since."

The FA may decide to treat Chelsea's case differently from a bid for more money, which will receive no encouragement. "I think we are making a fair payment," Kelly said yesterday.

The clubs are unhappy that the payment for a live cup-tie on BBC is £120,000 split equally between the two clubs, as compared with £195,000 for a League match on ITV. Kelly however rejected the comparison.

"Our TV contract is very different from the League's, which places a big emphasis on live matches," he said. "We try and filter the agreement with ITV."

Complaints over World Cup shirts

Football officials voiced concern yesterday after complaints that Chelsea had sold "provocative" World Cup T-shirts at their club shop. The shirts, prominently displayed, showed marauding supporters storming off a boat and proclaiming: "England and Chelsea invasion of Italy 1990."

Janet Wayth, the Chelsea club secretary, said: "I had no idea that these T-shirts were on sale, but I'm very concerned about it. This is not the sort of image we want to give."

The Football Association also reacted. David Barber, a spokesman, said: "Regrettably, this sort of garment seems to appear before every major championship. We would ask fans to think carefully before wearing them."

The Italians are planning a tough crackdown on English hooligans in Sardinia in June. They are organizing a 72-hour ban on the sale of alcohol before every match involving England, and the FA is screening supporters who buy tickets from official outlets.

His wife Carolina has been

Praise for Bologna after emergency

Bologna (AFP) — Bologna's stadium has been dubbed the safest of the grounds for the World Cup in Italy this year after the lifesaving operation that ensured the AS Roma defender, Lionello Manfredonia, was in hospital in five minutes after he suffered a stroke on the field.

Manfredonia was well on the way to recovery yesterday, three days after collapsing five minutes into the first division game between Bologna and AS Roma.

The incident turned into a real life rehearsal for any disaster that might strike during the World Cup finals in June. Bologna and Milan will put on the group D matches for the competition.

But the ground and emergency officials were praised after coming through the test with flying colours.

Manfredonia, aged 33, was at a Bologna hospital and heading for an intensive care unit within five minutes of being rendered unconscious following the stroke.

His wife Carolina has been

at his bedside ever since, but she was the first to praise the operation in a message of thanks on national television.

"I will be eternally grateful to the people of Bologna and the hospital team who saved Lionello's life through their great and speedy efficiency at all levels," she said.

"In any other Italian city, I am certain that he would have died."

Manfredonia is still in intensive care, but doctors said that he was now fully conscious and talking to his wife and the doctors.

"We remain on the alert, but I think his condition is changing in the right direction," Professor Brachetti, the chief doctor at Bologna hospital, said.

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Thorburn ponders his future

By Peter Bills

at the approach and was uncertain what path he should pursue.

Wigan, however, denied they were about to sign the Neath captain. The Wigan coach, John Monie, said: "We are quite happy with our squad. Any suggestion that we have made an offer for this particular player is well wide of the mark."

Jack Robinson, the vice chairman, said: "We have already got Steve Hampson, the Great Britain full back, Joe Lydon, another international who can also play at full back,

plus young Sean Tyner waiting in the wings."

The Welsh Rugby Union's chief coach, John Ryan, is likely to be astonished at the news, especially its timing.

Wales leave today for a training squad session in Portugal in preparation for the five nations' championship season, which begins for them a fortnight on Saturday against France at Cardiff.

Ryan will be alarmed at the possibility of losing Thorburn, who has been capped 25 times. Thorburn is Wales' leading points scorer, having passed the 200 mark in the international against New Zealand last November.

Thorburn said: "All this has happened in such a short time that I feel a bit bewildered. I have been in cloud cuckoo land ever since I heard of Wigan's offer. They are riding high at the moment and so it is a compliment to be asked to join them. But I have many things to consider and I do not know what to think about it."

Boycott given a further three years

Geoff Boycott, the former Yorkshire and England opening batsman, has been given another three-year term as Wakefield's representative on the county's cricket committee.

Boycott, who was first elected in 1984, is one of seven committee men to be returned unopposed. Also among them is Bob Appleby, another former player with the club and one of Boycott's sternest critics on the committee.

The only contested seat is in Sheffield, where David Tumberidge is opposed by Terry Jarvis, who sat on the committee for one year.

• Essex have signed Steve Andrew, the right-arm fast medium bowler, from Hampshire on a two-year contract. Andrew, aged 23, refused a new contract, having lost his place after injury to Paul-Jan Bekker.

Delhi (Reuters) — The India Gold Cup international men's hockey tournament, scheduled to start on Saturday, has been postponed to March because the leading countries fear it would have disturbed training schedules for the World Cup in Lahore next month.

Leicester City basketball club have named one of their leading players, Jerry Jenkins, aged 35, as assistant coach.

Postponed

Oldham (Reuters) — The India Gold Cup international men's hockey tournament, scheduled to start on Saturday, has been postponed to March because the leading countries fear it would have disturbed training schedules for the World Cup in Lahore next month.

Oldham Rugby League club, Keith Atkinson, has won his fight for fitness after two operations and has been rewarded with a new three-year contract.



Full stretch: Stevens, of Rangers, cuts through the Celtic defence at Parkhead yesterday. Rangers won 1-0. Report, page 35

Steinlager takes the lead

From Barry Pickthall
Fremantle

Charles Jourdan, the 72-foot French yacht in the Whitbread Round the World Race, was badly damaged yesterday after colliding with a whale midway across the Tasman Sea during the third stage of this race, from Fremantle to Auckland.

Alain Gabbay, the skipper, reported to race control that the incident happened shortly after midnight GMT on Monday, and his ultra light design now has a large hole in her starboard side measuring 3.5 metres by 0.6 metres. None of the crew were injured in the incident but the yacht can only be sailed on starboard tack. Later, during a radio link with his shore crew station in Auckland, Gabbay said he was heading for New Plymouth, on the west coast of New Zealand's North Island to patch up the hull, before continuing in the race.

This is the second time the French yacht has struck a whale, and the fourth such incident during this race.

As that drama was unfolding, the tactical battle being waged by the leading four yachts continued. Steinlager 2, Peter Blake's 28ft ketch, continued to have the measure of her New Zealand rival Fisher & Paykel, but there was little to divide them.

Further east, Rothmans, Britain's leading challenger, is cutting a solitary course in the hope of experiencing more favourable winds today, but faces a threat from Pierre Fehlmann's Swiss challenger, Merit.

Five hundred miles behind the leaders Britain's Tracy Edwards has an equal struggle on her hands subduing Patrick Tabary's French yacht L'Esprit de Liberté for honours in the smaller Division 3 fleet. Yesterday, her 58ft yacht, Maiden, held a tenuous four-mile lead, but in a radio

call yesterday, admitted, this could well be reversed if the wind dies.

The L'Esprit boys are racing with a vengeance at the moment. We need a lot of wind to get the boat moving because our wide transom acts as a sea anchor in light airs," she reported. "This is the closest race we have had so far with our rivals."

One point that the leading skippers all agreed on was to differ on the official distances each has to cover to the finish. Peter Blake, Grant Dalton (Fisher & Paykel) and Lawrie

Smith all stated that they still had 500 miles to reach Cape Reinga, New Zealand's northern point, before turning south-east for the 200-mile run down the eastern coast to Auckland.

This contradicts the 450-mile total stated in the results, suggesting that the Royal Naval Sailing Association organisers have failed to include the loop round the north island.

Similar navigation errors have been detected on each of the three legs to date, and this latest mistake now places a serious question mark on the validity of the fastest daily runs and average speeds recorded so far.

LEADING POSITIONS (extracted of 1504 GMT yesterday, with miles to Auckland and subject to a 200-mile plus error):

MAINT DIVISION 1: Steinlager 2, P Blake (NZL) 416; 3. Rothmans, G Tabary (FRA) 415; 4. Merit, P Fehlmann (SUI) 405; 5. Merit, O. Wirkkula (FIN) 401; 6. Fisher & Paykel, J. Stevens (GBR) 397; 7. The Card, D. Dalton (GBR) 396; 8. Suntacore British Challenger, C. Wedderburn (GBR) 384; 10. UBP (NZL) 382; 12. Galleon, H. Hartono (INA) 380; 14. NCB Ireland, J. English (INA) 379; 16. Merit, P. Dalton (GBR) 378; 18. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 372; 20. L'Esprit de Liberté, T. Edwards (GBR) 369; 21. Merit, L. Edwards (GBR) 368; 22. L'Esprit de Liberté, T. Edwards (GBR) 367; 23. Suntacore British Challenger, C. Wedderburn (GBR) 366; 24. Fisher & Paykel, G. Dalton (GBR) 364; 25. Galleon, H. Hartono (INA) 363; 26. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 362; 27. Suntacore British Challenger, C. Wedderburn (GBR) 361; 28. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 360; 29. The Card, D. Dalton (GBR) 359; 30. Merit, L. Edwards (GBR) 358; 31. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 357; 32. Suntacore British Challenger, C. Wedderburn (GBR) 356; 33. Galleon, H. Hartono (INA) 355; 34. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 354; 35. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 353; 36. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 352; 37. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 351; 38. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 350; 39. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 349; 40. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 348; 41. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 347; 42. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 346; 43. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 345; 44. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 344; 45. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 343; 46. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 342; 47. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 341; 48. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 340; 49. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 339; 50. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 338; 51. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 337; 52. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 336; 53. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 335; 54. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 334; 55. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 333; 56. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 332; 57. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 331; 58. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 330; 59. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 329; 60. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 328; 61. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 327; 62. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 326; 63. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 325; 64. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 324; 65. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 323; 66. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 322; 67. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 321; 68. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 320; 69. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 319; 70. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 318; 71. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 317; 72. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 316; 73. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 315; 74. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 314; 75. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 313; 76. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 312; 77. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 311; 78. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 310; 79. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 309; 80. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 308; 81. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 307; 82. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 306; 83. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 305; 84. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 304; 85. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 303; 86. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 302; 87. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 301; 88. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 300; 89. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 299; 90. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 298; 91. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 297; 92. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 296; 93. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 295; 94. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 294; 95. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 293; 96. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 292; 97. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 291; 98. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 290; 99. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 289; 100. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 288; 101. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 287; 102. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 286; 103. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 285; 104. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 284; 105. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 283; 106. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 282; 107. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 281; 108. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 280; 109. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 279; 110. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 278; 111. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 277; 112. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 276; 113. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 275; 114. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 274; 115. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 273; 116. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 272; 117. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 271; 118. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 270; 119. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 269; 120. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 268; 121. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 267; 122. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 266; 123. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 265; 124. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 264; 125. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 263; 126. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 262; 127. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 261; 128. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 260; 129. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 259; 130. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 258; 131. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary (FRA) 257; 132. Steinlager 2, P. Blake (NZL) 256; 133. Steinlager 3, P. Tabary